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MARRIAGE.

At All Saints' Church, Tientsin, on Wednesday, 14th June, 1899, by the Rev. G. D. Iliff, MARIAN, daughter of Archie CRAWFORD, of Taku, to AUGUSTE F. H. LINDBERG, Taku.

DEATHS.

At the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, on 20th June, FRANCES DANA, the wife of FREDERICK C. WALCOTT, of New York Mills, New York.

At Bakan (Straits of Shimonoseki), at 2.30 a.m. on 23rd June, of apoplexy, JOSEPH DAVIESON (Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co.).

At Bakan, on the 23rd June, JOSEPH DAVIESON, from a stroke of apoplexy.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 2nd June arrived per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 4th July, (32 days); the American mail of the 1st June arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Aztec*, on the 5th July (34 days); the English mail of the 9th June arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 6th July (27 days); and the American mail of the 9th June arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 6th July (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Council Playfair assumed charge of H.B.M. Consulate at Foochow on the 24th June vice Mr. Consul E. H. Fraser, who goes Swatow.

It is generally understood, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that the Viceroy at Nanking has consented to the Extension of the French Settlement at Shanghai.

The Chinese Engineering and Mining Co.'s shipping office at Tientsin has been destroyed by fire. The property was, however, fully covered by insurance.

The Shanghai Municipal Council assumed control over the extended area of the Concession on the 1st July. The event was unmarked by any ceremony.

The German tug-boat *Habicht* left Shanghai on the 28th June with a dredger in tow for Kiaochau, the dredger being intended for the deepening of the harbour.

The Hainan Lekin Farm, for the levy of the duty on kerosine, cotton, and cotton yarn, is, we believe, to be done away with, owing to the representations of the Consuls.

Mr. Byron Brenan, Consul-General at Shanghai, left for home on 1st July by the *Empress of India* on leave, and Mr. P. L. Warren takes charge of the British Consulate-General during his absence.

Correspondence relating to the arrangements to be made with the Chinese Customs in reference to the junk trade between Hongkong and China is published in the *Government Gazette*, but it contains little that is new and the final decision is not stated.

The memorial to Miss Higgin and Miss Ireland, the Hospital Sisters who died in 1898 of plague contracted on duty, has taken the form of a stained glass window, which has now been placed in St. John's Cathedral. The design is the work of Miss Kate Coughtrie.

Tang Tsing Sz and Cheong Tin were on the 5th July sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Hongkong for the murder of Tung Cheong, at Un Loong, in the New Territory. The murdered man was shot and thrown into a creek as a punishment for having been engaged as a bill-poster in posting the Governor's proclamation in reference to the taking over of the Territory. Another similar case is pending.

The Shanghai mandarins went down in a Chinese gunboat to Woosung on the 21st June to meet the French mail steamer *Caledonien*, which had on board the famous General Su, of Kwangsi, who has been most popular with the French officers on the Tonkin borders, due to the former's uniform courtesy and readiness to assist whenever the latter applied to him. General Su will remain in Shanghai only a few days, when he will go on to Peking for special audience with the Empress Dowager.—*N. C. Daily News.*

In making mention of the recent piracy committed on the *Wo On*, on the West River, the Hongkong correspondent of the *Echo de Chine* (Shanghai) says:—"Dans le récit de cet acte de piraterie une phrase est à relever: 'There are three Chinese torpedo-boats on the river to assist the *Sandpiper* to suppress piracy.' On aurait pu croire que c'etait le *Sandpiper* qui portait assistance aux torpilleurs chinois puisque le Sikiang tout entier est eau chinoise. Il parait qu'il n'en est pas ainsi, mais que le *Sandpiper* est chez lui." We hope the *Sandpiper* will long continue *chez lui* on the river.

The *China Gazette* of the 30th June says:—We are glad to hear that a telegram has been received here stating that the pressure by the Chinese, as it is alleged under Russian influence, to remove Mr. Claude Kinder from his position in the Northern Railways has been removed.

The *Japan Herald* states that the late Manager of the Yokohama branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Mr. H. M. Bevis, has been appointed by the Board of Directors as Chief Manager, during the absence on leave of Sir Thomas Jackson, who expects to be away, our contemporary understands, some eighteen months after his departure from Hongkong.

On the 16th June at Weihaiwei Admiral Seymour caused the emergency call to be hoisted ashore. Notice was given to the fleet which consisted of the *Victorious*, *Barfleur*, *Centurion*, *Iphigenia*, *Rattler*, *Aurora*, *Bonaventure*, *Brisk*, *Alacrity*, *Linnet*, and *Whiting* at 9.30 a.m. The signal was hoisted an hour afterwards and by 11 o'clock those available, namely, 1,700 men, composed of 1,300 seamen and 400 marines, all fully armed, carrying two hundred and fifty rounds of ammunition and equipped with two days' provisions, were landed with their field guns and ambulance corps by their own boats. It is reported the *Iphigenia* made the best time in this brilliant manœuvre.—*N. C. Daily News.*

Prince Henry of Prussia left Nagasaki on 24th June with his flagship the *Deutshland* and the *Gefion* for Kobe, whence he will proceed to Yokohama and Tokio. The Japanese were very anxious that he should visit Japan—to which he has already paid one visit, when he was a midshipman—and very anxious that no *contretemps* should occur while he is there. Unfortunately Tokio is very empty in the summer, everyone who can having gone away to the mountains or the seashore. The German Rear-Admiral Fritze is also going to Japan with his flagship the *Hertha* and the *Irene*. The new *Iltis* is going to Kiaochau as guardship for a month, and thence to Japan. The new German gunvessel *Jaguar* is expected on this station in about a month's time.—*N C. Daily News.*

The following clipping from a Manila paper gives fuller and more correct information respecting the rescue of two British subjects taken prisoners by the Filipinos at Samar than has been previously published:—*El Noticiero* is in receipt of news from Samar to the effect that two British subjects, residents in one of the villages of that island, were taken prisoners by the Filipinos. On the report becoming known H.M.S. *Peacock*, which was lying in the harbour of Cebu, was immediately despatched to Tacloban to claim from the authorities there the release of the British prisoners. The Commander (Capt. E. St. John), not being able to successfully press his claim by diplomatic means, resorted to a more practical way of settling matters by landing an armed force, while the ship was cleared for action. This firm attitude on the part of the Britishers had the desired effect, the Filipinos immediately releasing the prisoners without exchanging a shot, and thus much unpleasantness was averted. The two British subjects who had been held prisoners were Mr. John Richmond, of Messrs. W. Stevenson & Co., and Mr. Jones, of Messrs. Smith Bell & Co. After embarking on board H.M.S. *Peacock* they were conveyed to Iloilo.

HONGKONG AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd July.)

The official correspondence published in the *Gazette* respecting the arrangements to be made with the Customs for the protection of the Chinese revenue is unsatisfying inasmuch as it gives only the proposals and suggestions that have been made and leaves us still in doubt as to the final decision. It will be noted, however, that General BLACK, who was then administering the Government, in his despatch to the Secretary of State of the 29th July, 1898, while strongly recommending that the Chinese Customs should not be formally accorded the right to maintain its office in Hongkong, says he thinks the Chinese Government should be permitted to have an agency in the colony of a purely mercantile character merely for the purpose of issuing opium certificates, unconnected in any way with any other kind of goods and entirely of an unofficial character and beyond the control of any recognised officer of the Chinese Customs; that is to say, that the Commissioner of Customs should not be recognised as a Chinese official but should remain as at present without official status of any kind. In a further despatch suggesting a plan for the collection of the opium revenue General BLACK gives as one of the points of this plan that the Harbour Master should send every evening to the Imperial Maritime Customs a return of all opium shipped and whither bound, upon which the Imperial Maritime Customs could arrange for the collection of the duty on this amount of opium at the port of destination. In his last despatch, addressed to the Minister at Peking, General BLACK says:—"I need "hardly add that the suggestion . . . as "to aiding the Imperial Maritime Customs "in the collection of opium duties presup-"poses as a *sine qua non* the total with-"drawal of Chinese Customs stations and of "their revenue craft from the waters of "Hongkong." The latter suggestion we take it does not preclude the setting up of new stations just beyond the frontier. Such stations being established, the duty on opium as well as on other goods shipped from Hongkong for import into China would naturally be collected there, and not at the ports of destination, unless indeed the shippers were allowed to pay the duties on opium when they received their export permit, which is what they would like and what seems to have been contemplated by General BLACK in his first despatch. As to payment of the duties at the port of destination, any proposal of that kind would be attended with some danger.

The whole of the foreign communities in China are agreed that it would be an excellent thing if the collection of lekin and all other duties on native trade was transferred to the Foreign Customs. This, it is universally admitted and recognised, must be the first step in the reform of China's fiscal system, and that step has already been taken as regards goods imported into China from Hongkong by native craft. Any proposal to hand back that trade to the rascalities of the native collectorate—which is what collection of duties at the port of destination would amount to—would be a retrograde step, not only wrong in principle but prejudicial to the trade of the colony. Sir ROBERT HART'S proposals as set out in the correspondence published it the *Gazette* have been found unacceptable, and the Chamber of Commerce has put forward an alternative proposal for the establishment of a bonded warehouse for opium, by which it is believed the colony will render to China all the assistance that can be reasonably expected in the protection of its revenue. But although Sir ROBERT HART cannot be given all that he has asked for, it would be a grave mistake to go to the other extreme, for the colony of Hongkong to play into the hands of the Chinese reactionaries and assist the Native authorities in their opposition to an honest collection of the duties on trade according to a fixed and stated tariff. Having had more than twelve years' experience of the control of the Customs stations surrounding Hongkong by the Foreign Customs, it would be the rankest folly to attempt to throw the collection back into native hands when the stations have to be removed in consequence of the alteration of the frontier having brought their old locations within British territory. Whatever shape the final arrangements may take it is clear that goods imported into China from Hongkong cannot claim to escape payment of duty, and it is to the interest of all honest trade and to the interest of fiscal reform in China that the duty should be collected by the Foreign Customs rather than by the native authorities.

SIR ROBERT HART AND HIS DETRACTORS.

(*Daily Press*, 5th July.)

Like all great men Sir ROBERT HART has his detractors, amongst whom is to be numbered our correspondent "Old China "Hand," to whom the Foreign Customs and all their ways are an abomination. Even "Old China Hand" himself, however, on reading over his letter which appears in another column must, we think, recognise the absurdity of his present diatribe. He says Sir ROBERT HART "is continually by "his ruling endeavouring to block British "trade and take all the substance out of the "concessions wrung from the perverse "Chinese Government, leaving only a "shadow of the concession obtained, as in "the case of the opening up of inland "waters, and who holds out baits with the "intent of establishing his rule within the "colony of Hongkong itself." The first assertion contained in the above is at variance with universal experience. It implies that Sir ROBERT HART discriminates against British trade, but probably our correspondent meant to say "foreign trade." Now all the foreign firms established in China have dealings more or less with the Customs, and many of them who have branches in other countries are in a position to compare the Customs regime in China with those prevailing elsewhere. If a poll were taken on the subject the verdict would be that in few places, possibly nowhere, is the Customs business conducted in a manner which causes less delay or inconvenience to the merchant or trader than it is in China. Furthermore, to block trade would be contrary to the interest of the Foreign Customs, and Sir ROBERT HART'S detractors allege that he has a keen eye for his own interests and those of the Service over which he presides. It is to the interest of that Service and of Sir ROBERT HART to produce a constantly increasing revenue, which certainly cannot be done by blocking trade. The spirit in which the Foreign Customs are conducted may be gathered from their invaluable annual and decennial reports, and that the spirit is translated into practice is proved by the total absence of complaints as to the administration of the Service, either collectively on the part of the Chambers of Commerce or by foreign merchants individually. For forty years the Imperial Maritime Customs Service of China has been exposed to the criticism of the world, from the representatives of Foreign Powers down to discontented members of the Service itself, and it stands to-day in possession of of world-wide confidence and is the basis of the credit so readily accorded to China in the world's money markets. Sir ROBERT HART was not the creator of the Service, but it is under his administration that it has reached its present high position, and he himself enjoys the confidence alike of the Chinese Government, of his own subordinates, and of all Foreign Governments. Even when the attempt was made recently by Russia to displace him no allegations were made against him; it was avowedly simply a contest for political power. Occupying as he does a position of such deserved eminence, does it not seem a little absurd for theso who oppose him on points affecting our local interests in Hongkong to suppose they can advance their cause by throwing mud?

Sir ROBERT HART is not infallible, and it is not specially by his opinion that the policy of the British Government should be guided, for, filling the position he does, he must necessarily be biassed in favour of according indulgence to China when severity is called for. He has never made any secret of his opinion that China would reform from within and that progress would come naturally and without violent pressure from without. That is now a discredited opinion, and the British Government has discovered, we believe, that in leaning upon Sir ROBERT HART in matters outside his own department they have made a mistake; but as the head of the Customs Service he is unimpeachable both as regards integrity and ability. It is made a charge against him that he fills the Service with his favourites. It is the fact that appointment and promotion go by patronage, and that the patronage rests with Sir ROBERT HART, also that he has not forgotten to do good to those of his own household, but the manner in which a person exercises any large patronage with which he may be endowed affords a very good index to his character, and in Sir ROBERT HART'S case his nepotism has always been severely tempered by regard for efficiency. The case is not one in which the introduction of the competitive system could be recommended, and if the system of patronage is to prevail it could hardly be exercised more wisely or fairly than it has been by Sir ROBERT HART. As to the inimical designs which our correspondent alleges that Sir ROBERT entertains against this colony, what those designs amount to is a scheme for what the Inspector-General considers the more convenient collection of revenue which is admittedly leviable by China at her own ports or in her own waters. Sir ROBERT HART would like to come to an arrangement by which that revenue should be collected or protected in Hongkong, and as regards the one article of opium, which is the principal article upon which the Chinese revenue is defrauded, the local Chamber of Commerce has recommended that bonded warehouses should be established in the colony. The details of the scheme are still open to discussion, and if in the course of that discussion Sir HOBERT HART, as his duty is, advocates the Chinese side of the case, the case for the opposite side will not be strengthened, but on the contrary will be weakened, by attempting to reply to his arguments by abuse.

"Old China Hand" allows himself to be so far carried away by his feelings that he is unable to discriminate between sarcasm and

serious assertion and takes "Open Door's" expression regarding the interception of trade by the minions of the Customs on our new frontier as indicative of active antagonism. Mention is also made by our correspondent of the opening of the inland waters, which has so far proved a failure, but it has yet to be demonstrated that the failure is to be ascribed to any shortcoming on the part of Sir ROBERT HART, who is not all powerful when he has to struggle against Chinese obstruction and the corrupt interests bound up with the existing system of taxing trade on the waters in question.

METHODS OF THE LEKIN COLLECTORATE.

(*Daily Press*, 7th July.)

In the course of his report on the trade of Ningpo for 1898, Mr. Consul PLAYFAIR makes some interesting statements and not less interesting remarks on the methods of native tax collectors. Commenting on the import of Hongkong sugar, which he says has increased considerably, especially that of white sugar, he says he remarked in last year's report on the complaisance of the authorities in admitting Swatow sugars to the advantages of the transit pass, provided they acquired a "foreign status" by passing through Hongkong, and he expressed, at the time, surprise and gratification that the lekin officials should be so liberal in their views. Mr. PLAYFAIR goes on to add:—"I have since ascertained the explanation "of this indulgence. The lekin administration did not object to the granting of "transit passes for these goods, but, as is "their wont, recouped their loss by nullifying "the protective privileges. This it effected "by making the shippers of such sugar pay "at the first barrier outside Ningpo, extra "sums under the name 'of examination fees.' "The payments were rendered practically "compulsory, as the recalcitrant boats were "subjected to vexatious delays. These ex"actions had been submitted to in silence "by the victims in the fear that protest "would be followed by worse treatment. "Towards the middle of the year the suf"ferers at last summoned up courage to ap"prise me of what had previously been "unknown to me. I was successful in "having these irregular imposts abolished, "and in securing the issue of a public "notification to say that none such would be "levied hereafter on certificated goods." As the Consul observes, this is a common device all over China, and has been resorted to in many provinces where the transit pass threatened to interfere with lekin revenue. Mr. PLAYFAIR proceeds:—"At some point "on the inland journey the privileges of "the pass have been shorn by the im"position of unauthorised dues under vary"ing names (of which I may cite *loti-shui* "and *tso-ku* (as instances). These have "been a veritable Hydra; no sooner has "one head been lopped off than another "has sprung to life in its place. It is "impossible for the wariest Consul to guard "against such artifices if not kept in"formed of their existence by the suf"ferers." The very same story can be, and has been, told of the Two Kwang. Of the dodges of the mandarins in the southern provinces there is no end. More than twenty years ago a demand was made to the Viceroy, we believe, for a tariff showing the inland taxation of foreign goods. For two decades the Canton Government shuffled out of satisfying this demand until at last Mr. Consul BRENAN, acting under instructions from the Minister at Peking, applied definitely to the Viceroy for a tariff of lekin charges, and succeeded in obtaining such a list. According to the list supplied to Mr. BRENAN there are forty-nine lekin stations in Kwangtung and the tariff contains seven hundred articles on which a specific tax is levied; while on all unenumerated goods the tax is 2 per cent. ad valorem. Here at least was something that appeared definite. The satisfaction of the Consul with the information thus gleaned was short-lived. He soon discovered that the provincial officials had hit upon a way of turning the foreigner's flank and neutralising the to them evil effects of transit passes. They invented the *tso-li* or destination tax in lieu of lekin, and the Viceroy laid down a rule whereby goods under transit pass whether sold *en route* or not have to pay this *tso-li* The prospect of obtaining any real modification of the squeezes levied was speedily shown to be as remote as ever. The Treaty Powers may negotiate and secure concessions; but these are never put into practice; the consuls may insist on a strict enforcement of the stipulations of the Treaty of Tientsin, but it is all in vain; new evasions are conceived before the ink dries on any agreement.

Similarly the much talked-of concession throwing open the inland waters of China to foreign trade is quickly proving to be a most elusive gain. At first it was hoped that some advantages would accrue from what, on the face of it, seemed a valuable privilege, and small steamers were placed on the Yangtsze, the Ningpo river, and the West River, but under the interpretation given to the Inland Steam Navigation Rules it seems very doubtful whether the privilege will not prove entirely valueless. The Chinese Government is too weak to hold out against the pressure brought by a strong Western Power, but having once assented to a demand and signed a concession it proceeds to endeavour, by all kinds of devices, to nullify the concession extorted from its fears. No better exemplification of this policy could be given than the manner in which the southern provincial governments succeeded for upwards of a quarter of a century in rendering the clauses of the Treaty of Tientsin relating to transit passes a dead letter. Ever since the first treaties with western countries were signed, moreover, the Chinese officials have endeavoured to subject foreign goods to illegal taxes, and the history of British relations with China is one long continued struggle between British merchants (through their Consuls) and the mandarins in resisting illegal imposts on trade. The time has now arrived when the Treaty Powers should come to an agreement amongst themselves to insist upon one system of Customs, instead of as at present a foreign and a native Customs Service with lekin collectorate as well. With regard to the multiplied imposts upon imported goods, these should be reduced to one duty payable at port of arrival, after which the goods should be free to go to any part of the Empire. The Treaty Powers would no doubt agree to an increase in the tariff under these conditions but they would want some security for the fulfilment of the stipulations. A signed treaty could not be accepted as sufficient security, for the record of the Chinese Government in the past has been one of continued bad faith and violation of the Treaties. Some material guarantee, such as the collection of all the duties by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, would be absolutely necessary. No one, of course, would wish to see the provincial administrations deprived of their revenues, but the present wasteful system of collection, leading to endless corruption, must be abolished. The Chinese Government has amply demonstrated its utter powerlessness to deal with the question, and as it involves serious loss to foreign trade it is time that steps should be taken to put an end to the misgovernment that is rapidly bringing about something like anarchy in China, and which if not speedily checked must eventuate in its dismemberment.

HOW OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE IN CHINA.

(*Daily Press* 6th July.)

As to the manner in which official appointments are made in China an instructive illustration is afforded by the case of the Customs Taotaiship at Tientsin, evidently regarded as a high lucrative post. It was believed at one time that SHEN Taotai, formerly manager of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company at Shanghai, and at present Taotai of North Tungchow, near Peking, would secure this coveted billet, more especially as he was strongly recommended for it by the Viceroy YU-LU; but it would seem that the Empress Dowager had quite other views, and awarded the post to a Manchu at Peking named CHEN HOU. These posts are almost invariably filled by Manchus, who are supposed to speedily amass a fortune in them by the free use of the squeeze. They do not, however, escape this instrument themselves, for they are expected to purchase the appointment, and on their return to the capital are required to stump up a pretty large commission on their makings by way of present to some Palace official. It would seem in this last case that the Empress Dowager has given an extra turn of the screw and only succeeded in scaring off the Taotai-elect, for Mr. CHEN HOU, on being made to understand that his acceptance of the appointment involved the payment to the Empress's favourite Eunuch of a sum of about Tls. 200,000 in addition to the Tls. 40,000 usually expected by the officials of the Board of Civil appointments, promptly declined the honour. According to the Peking correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary, CHENG was so disgusted with this gross attempt at extortion that he complained to Her Majesty about it. Report goes that the Empress, so far from taking up the matter or inquiring into the charge, simply ignored it altogether and remarked that perhaps she had better appoint the recalcitrant CHENG to a Provincial judgeship when a vacancy occurred. What answer the bold Manchu gave to this proposal is not stated, but it would appear that the Empress Dowager, who is reputed to possess a very keen eye for the main chance, considered that the post was worth the premium demanded by her creature, and a good proportion of which no doubt is intended for her private purse.

When it is considered that China is governed by persons who sell official appointments to the highest bidders, and that the salaries paid (as Dr. Ho Kai points out in his recent letter to Lord CHARLES BERESFORD) are wholly insufficient to provide for the current expenses of the officials, what possible hope is there of reforms being instituted in the administration? Certainly none from the existing Government. Why then talk longer of the morality, the propriety, or even the expediency of attempting to bolster up so rotten a fabric? China is not disintegrating through the attacks of open enemies; she is decaying as the result of canker at the heart. If the Chinese

Government go warily and refrain from interference with foreign trade, and keep faith with the Treaty Powers by upholding the provisons of the Treaties, it is possible they may avoid complications. But if they permit violations of the tariff and multiply imposts on Foreign goods they are sure not only to provoke a wide-spread irritation but to eventually furnish ground for active intervention. Even now evidences are accumulating daily of the evil effects on foreign trade of the continued and grievous exactions placed on trade in excess of the duties sanctioned by the tariff. Moreover, the Peking Government wilfully shut their eyes to the mischievous folly of allowing anti-foreign outbreaks to occur in various parts of the Empire. Murders of foreign subjects will now be made the occasion for fresh demands by some of the Powers, and they will alienate the sympathy of the most longsuffering of China's friends. What is wanted just now are two conditions; namely, that trade shall not be unduly hampered, and that the persons and property of those pioneers of progress now endeavouring to open up the Empire shall be scrupulously respected. Given these two conditions, and the Sick Man of Cathay may secure as long a fresh lease power as the other Sick Man of Europe has enjoyed. At present, under the guidance of the Empress Dowager and Li HUNG-CHANG, China is, as it seems to us, simply riding for a fall.

THE CHINA TEA TRADE AND ITS OVER-TAXATION.

(*Daily Press*, 4th July.)

The over-taxation of the China tea trade and the consequent reduction of the export is an oft told tale. It is, however, somewhat of a novelty to have the circumstance used as an argument in favour of the partition of China, and that, too, by one of the erstwhile strongest supporters of the policy of maintaining the integrity of the decaying Empire at the cost of Great Britain. In a review of the report on the trade of Kiukiang in 1898, by Mr. T. F. HUGHES, Commissioner of Customs, the *N. C. Daily News* reproduces the Commissioner's remarks on the results of the over-taxation of ten, and exclaims:—"Can "anyone doubt that the partition of China "among intelligent and progressive For-"reign Powers will be immensely to the "benefit of the Chinese people?" Truly it is difficult to conceive how anyone can doubt such a self-evident proposition, but our contemporary used nevertheless to argue strongly against partition. But whatever may be said as to the antagonistic policies of partitioning China or maintaining the integrity of the Empire the destruction of the tea trade affords convincing proof of the unfitness of its present rulers to administer the Government and demonstrates the desirability of bringing the country's finances under foreign control. This would follow naturally upon partition, but it is none the less desirable in the event of the country's integrity being preserved. In fact reform of the finances would afford one of the best guarantees against partition, and reform of the finances can only be brought about by foreign assistance and control.

Experts in tea are agreed that the *desiderata* to retrieve the fortunes of the China tea trade are improved cultivation and manipulation, and a reduction in the cost of production. "So long, however," says Mr. HUGHES in his Kiukiang Customs report, "as the present heavy taxation exists in "China all along the route from the place "of origin to the point of shipment—a taxa-"tion amounting to about 25 per cent. of "the cost, whilst the tea of other countries "(India, Ceylon, etc.) are free of duty, "neither the improvement of the leaf nor "the reduction of the original cost can be "reckoned as prime factors in the question. "The wonder is that an article so heavily "handicapped as China tea is in the matter "of duty and taxes should still hold a res-"pectable place in the world's markets and "still retain such a large share of foreign "patronage. It would almost seem as if, "even without any other alteration in the "present state of affairs, China tea, with "a wise removal of, say, half its fiscal "burdens, could hold its own with its "modern rivals, to the immense benefit "of the Chinese Government and people." The 25 per cent. mentioned by Mr. HUGHES as the amount of taxation to which Kiukiang tea is subjected is somewhat less than the amount given by competent authorities at other ports. Mr. BRENAN, in the Canton Consular report for 1897, placed the figure at 35 per cent., while Mr. CASS, of Amoy, in a review of the tea trade supplied by him to the Consul and incorporated in the 1896 report, said the reason for the decline was not far to seek: the entire crop realised $136,000, while the lekin paid amounted to $20,000 and the export duty to $35,000, or a total of $55,000, considerably more than one-third of the value of the tea. The result is that at Amoy the tea trade has practically ceased to exist.

SUPREME COURT.

30th June.

SPECIAL CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE UN LOONG MURDERS.

Tang Ching Sz and Cheng Ting were charged with the wilful murder of Tung Cheong, at Un Loong, on April 18th.

The Acting Attorney-General, Hon. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Bowley, Acting Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Slade for the defence.

The jury was composed of Messrs. Thomas Grimshaw, G. J. Casanova, C. S. Gubbay, A. R. Riddle, R. Abesser, G. E. Huijgen, and A. Andrew.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball acted as interpreter.

The evidence for the prosecution was continued.

Mr. Slade, for the defence, argued that the Court had no jurisdiction, inasmuch as at the time the offence was committed the laws of the colony did not apply to Un Loong.

1st July.

The previous day Mr. Slade had raised an objection on the ground that the prosecution had not called evidence to prove that Un Loong was under British jurisdiction.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock dealt at some length with this point, quoting cases to show that if the Court thought fit in the interests of justice to call additional evidence on the point it could do so.

His Lordship said this was not like a game of chess where the skill of one player was set against the skill of another. They were there to administer justice. When the counsel for the prosecution said, "I have finished; that is my case," and the counsel for the other side said, "There is something you have not proved; you have not proved that this place is in the colony," the judge might be of opinion that it was, not necessary to prove it; but if it was, now was the only time to do so. What injustice could be done to prisoner who did not take any objection to the Court taking judicial notice of Un Loong being in the new territory? They would simply laugh at English law if it broke down on that point. He should rather be inclined to strain a point on what was morally right than allow a technical objection when there was no opportunity of meeting it. If Mr. Slade were to prove that this place was not in the colony there would be an end to the matter; but the question was whether it would not be safer to have the evidence called as a matter of precaution. The judges in the cases quoted by Mr. Pollock considered that when a flaw was pointed out in the prosecution, it should be amended while there was an opportunity. That was certainly common sense.

The Acting Attorney-General said the cases he had quoted showed that the Court could, wherever the substantial ends of justice required it, direct that further evidence should be called. Of course his Lordship would bear in mind his contention that it was quite competent for the Court to take judicial notice that this crime was committed within British jurisdiction.

His Lordship—Do you to propose to call witnesses on the point?

The Acting Attorney-General—I would rather suggest to your lordship that the proper course would be for the Court to call witnesses.

His Lordship thought that the proper course, to avoid any difficulty, would be to call witnesses to prove the matter. He was not laying it down that the prosecution had got to prove this point; he believed the Court could take judicial note of these things. What evidence was there present on the point?

The Acting Attorney General said Mr. Ormsby was there and one of the Delimitation Committee and the Captain Superintendent of Police.

Tang Hing, who had already been called as a witness, was recalled to prove that the place where the crime was committed was in the new territory. After a few preliminary questions, His Lordship said—Taking about a radius of a mile round Un Loong, is that included in the new territory taken over by the British Government?

Mr. Slade—I object to the question. It can be nothing but hearsay on the part of this man. It ought to be properly proved, and can be proved specifically.

His Lordship (to witness)—Are the Chinese Magistrates still exercising jurisdiction in Un Loong or are the English people exercising jurisdiction there?

Witness—It is now under the jurisdiction of the English officials.

His Lordship caused the Clerk of the Court (Mr Jones) to read the Government Notification dividing the territory into subdistricts, and then asked the witness if the villages mentioned in the district of Un Loong were in Ung Loong.

Witness certified to the correctness of the description of the district of Un Loong.

His Lordship then stated he was perfectly satisfied that the place where the crime was committed was in the new territory. Referring to the question raised by Mr. Slade that the Governor's proclamation extending the laws of Hongkong did not come into effect until after the 17th April, his Lordship said for the purposes of the case before the jury he would rule that "from the 17th" included the 17th.

Mr. Slade said with his Lordship's permission he had to raise another objection. It had been laid down by the Privy Council in the case of the Imperial Japanese Government *v.* the P. and O. Company, 1895 Appeal Cases, that with reference to Orders in Council based upon Treaties, it was clear that the powers conferred by the Order in Council must be interpreted by the Treaty. Now, the Treaty in this case was the Convention made between the Emperor of China and the Queen. By the Convention the Emperor of China gave up his jurisdiction in the territory and handed it over to Great Britain. It was perfectly clear that the Emperor of China had not got the right to give any jurisdiction which he had not got. By other Treaties the Emperor had no jurisdiction over, say, Americans in the territory, as ex-territorial Treaties were in force in the territory. Therefore under the Convention he granted Great Britain rights he had already granted away.

His Lordship said that point might be raised if the persons concerned were Germans or Americans.

Mr Slade said it had not been proved that the persons were subjects of the Emperor of China at the time the Convention was signed.

His Lordship—There is some evidence of it, because the deceased were told that they were traitors to their country. You tell that to the Germans. If you break the laws of Kiaochau you will find yourself tried by a German judge.

Mr. Slade—The Emperor could not grant the right to the British Government over foreigners in the territory.

His Lordship said Mr. Slade had better show that the prisoners were foreigners. Mr. Slade might object to every Chinaman placed in the box, and they would require to produce certificates of birth in each case. That was carrying it too far. It would be better to leave it to the Privy Council to decide these points. He asked Mr. Slade if he had any objections to raise.

Mr. Slade replied that he had no more at present, but that he reserved his right of raising more. He then addressed the jury on behalf of prisoners. He said that the latter were being tried for their lives, and having been asked by the court to appear for their defence it was his duty to raise every possible objection. That was his reason for raising the many technical points. His objections had been overruled, and it was now their duty to decide on the facts of the case. He asked the jury to give the case their must careful consideration. Referring to the evidence given by two witnesses who were present when the crime was committed he said these men were murderers by their own confession. They admitted that they went down with the crowd of murderers and there they stood by and watched, and made no objection to the three men being murdered. He asked the jury why did these men come forward and give evidence unless some strong inducement had been offered? When the witnesses were in the box he did not ask them what inducement had been offered, because if such questions were asked it would only be casting serious reflections upon the Police. It was a very common practice to endeavour to get a man acquitted by abusing the Police; he thought that was a very unfair thing to do. He did not want to put upon the Police the stigma of having induced these men to come forward, but there was little doubt that these men had been asked to come forward and give evidence under promise that they should not be prosecuted. Mr. Slade pointed out discrepancies in the evidence of these two witnesses, and argued that to save themselves they had invented the story they had given the Court.

The Acting Attorney-General, in his address to the jury, contended that there was direct evidence that prisoners actually killed Tung Cheong by revolver shots. The two witnesses who saw the crime committed substantially corrobarated each other in their narration of the events.

His Lordship commenced his address to the jury at three o'clock, concluding by giving the following questions for the consideration of the jury; —(1) With respect to each of the prisoners is he guilty or not guilty of the offence with which he is charged in the information; (2) if you are of opinion that either or both of the prisoners are guilty of the murder of Tung Cheong, say whether you are of opinion the crime was committed before midnight or after midnight; (3) if you find that the murder was committed by either or both of the prisoners, but if the spot where it was committed is or is not in the Colony, say so.

Mr. Slade said if the second question was put to the jury he claimed the right to address the jury.

His Lordship allowed that Mr. Slade was within his rights.

Mr. Slade and the Acting Attorney-General then addressed the jury.

His Lordship then directed the jury on the question before them.

The Foreman (Mr. T. Grimshaw) said—My Lord, there has been a question mooted amongst the juryman as to whether the Police took any special means to identify the body. Was the body seen by anybody outside his own family?

His Lordship said the evidence of the widow and son of the deceased was about as good evidence as could be obtained.

It was about ten minutes to five when the jury retired to consider their verdict. They returned in a quarter of an hour and the jury submitted their verdict in writing. In answer to the first question, both prisoners were found unanimously guilty. The answer to the second question was—We cannot form an opinion as to the exact time. In answer to the third question the jury agreed that the murder was committed in the colony.

His Lordship directed the jury to further consider the second question.

After an absence of 20 minutes the jury returned and the following answer was given to the second question—We cannot form an opinion as to the date.

The jury were then discharged, after being thanked for their attendance.

The prisoners were ordered to be brought up the following day at ten o'clock for sentence.

July 3rd.

Tang Tsing Sz and Cheong Ting, who were found guilty on Saturday of the murder of Tung Cheong at Un Loong, came up for sentence.

Before dealing with this case His Lordship refered to the other case set down for trial, in which Ng Ki Cheung, Ng Tang, and Tin Tak Lap are charged with the murder of Chan Kwai Tsui Tai at Un Loong on the 18th April.

His Lordship (addressing Mr. Francis, who appeared for prisoners)—I understand you have some application to make with regard to the other case?

Mr. Francis—I have to applyfor the postponement of the hearing of the case till the next sessions, or, if it would be more satisfactory to your lordship, to an adjournment of the present sessions, but I ask your lordship to adjourn the hearing of the case to the next sessions.

His Lordship—It was appointed for this sessions, but in a case of this importance if you desire further time to prepare I think you ought to have it. Mr. Attorney-General, do you oppose the application?

The Acting Attorney General—I do not oppose the application for an adjourment, but I was going to suggest to my learned friend—

His Lordship—Prisoners have filed an affidavit in which they say they have not had time to get their case up. They must have their chance to get their case up by the next sessions.

Mr. Francis—If your Lordship would take it on Thursday of next week it would be sufficient.

The Acting Attorney-General—It is very inconvenient for the special jury to sit again.

Mr. Francis said his witnesses were not here. They were on the mainland. He had seen nothing of his brief yet except a copy of the depositions. He had had no particulars.

His Lordship—When were these men committed?

Mr. Francis said they were committed on the 27th June and now it was only the 3rd of July.

His Lordship—We have to consider both sides. We have to consider not only yourself but the witnesses for the prosecution.

Mr. Francis—That is so, but a few days should not make much difference. I ask your Lordship to allow the case to be postponed until the next Criminal Sessions.

The Acting Attorney-General suggested that there might be some difficulty about postponing the hearing until the next sessions seeing that the case had been appointed to be heard at the special sessions.

Mr. Francis contended that it was in the absolute power and discretion of the Court to postpone any procedure whatever in the interests of justice.

His Lordship said he certainly should not force on unduly a case of such gravity. Prisoners in their affidavit said that they had evidence which was not forthcoming in so short a time. They did not say what evidence they wanted to call—whether it was material or not.

Mr. Francis—It is stated to be material.

The Acting Attorney-General—It may save time if I say that if your Lordship sees no difficulty with regard to the point I have raised I am quite willing that the hearing should be postponed.

His Lordship said he did not consider there would be any difficulty so far as that was concerned, and adjourned the hearing until the next Criminal sessions.

Mr. Francis asked his Lordship to order a special jury.

His Lordship, in consideration of the gravity of the case, granted the application.

There being no more cases for this sessions, His Lordship informed the jurors that it would not be necessary for them to attend any longer this session unless they wished, and thanked them for their attendance.

His Lordship, alluding to the verdict of the jury on Saturday, said he took it that the finding the jury amounted to this, that prisoners committed the murder but that whether it occurred a few minutes before midnight on the 17th April or a few minutes after midnight on the 17th April.

On prisoners being asked if they had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon them they reterated that they were not guilty of the crime with which they were charged.

Mr. Slade said that on behalf of prisoners he begged to move to arrest judgment on the ground, first, that the verdict of the jury was not a verdict upon the information as it stood, and, secondly, that by no possible amendment of the information in accordance with the laws of the Colony could the verdict be amended.

This point was argued at some length.

Mr. Slade said the verdict of the jury amounted to this—that the man was murdered some time between 11 p.m. on the 17th April and 1 a.m. on the 18th April, but he contended that the information could not be amended to that form. According to the Ordinance the date had to be proved.

His Lordship, supposing a case, said that according to that if they wanted to murder a man all they had to do was to get him in a room some night and then if he were found dead the following morning and the doctors could not tell whether it was before 11 o'clock or after 11 o'clock that he had died they could not be convicted. He was not going to admit that law.

Mr. Slade contended that he was entitled to have the information amended so as to make it accord with the verdict of the jury. He submitted that his Lordship could not refuse it.

His Lordship, however, declined to admit Mr. Slade's objection, though he made a note of it.

The point as to whether English law was in force in the new territory on the 17th of April or not, and whether the words "from the 17th" mentioned in the proclamation included the 17th or not, was also mentioned. His Lordship, independently of the fact that the flag was raised on the 16th April, held that "from the 17th" included the 17th. He, however, reserved the point until Thursday, announcing his intention of consulting with Mr. Justice Wise in the meantime.

His Lordship expressed his views in the following terms:—

On Saturday both the prisoners were convicted unanimously by the jury upon an information charging them with the wilful murder of one Tung Cheung at Un Loong in this colony on the 18th April, 1899. As, however, the jury were unable to say with certainty whether the murder was committed before 12 p.m. of the 17th or a few minutes after midnight they so stated in reply to a further question I put to them. In ordinary cases the exact date is immaterial and, indeed, Ordinance No. 5 of 1872, following the English law, provided expresaly that no information for any offence should be held insufficient "for stating the time imperfectly, nor for stating the offence to have been committed on a day subsequent to that of the information or on an impossible day or on a day that never happened," etc. Moreover it is laid down in Archbold's pleading in Criminal cases that "The day and year on which facts are stated in the indictment to have occurred are not in general material, and the facts may be proved to have occurred upon any other day previous to the preferring of the indictment." There are certain exceptions to this rule, but a charge of murder is not one of those exceptions. In ordinary cases, therefore, the date is im-

material, but, in this special case, the Counsel for defence says it is material in this sense, viz., that if the murder took place before midnight it occurred on the 17th April, and he says the law of England with regard to murder was not in force in that part of the Colony known as the New Territory till immediately after midnight of the 17th, that is to say, till the first moment of the 18th April, because the Proclamation of the Governor fixed the 17th as the date from which all laws and ordinances which should at that date be in force in the colony of Hongkong should take effect in the said territories. It is urged that "from the 17th" does not include the 17th, but is equivalent to saying "immediately after the 17th."

Now, it is laid down in Stroud's Judicial Dictionary, and I think correctly, that a "term limited to commence from a certain day will be taken to include or exclude that day according to the context and subject matter."

Take, for instance, an example from every day life. You ask a friend to come and stay with you as long as he can. He replies, I will come and stay with you from 17th April to 20th. You would surely expect him on 17th? So if you wrote for rooms at a hotel from 17th you would expect to find them ready on that day and surprised if you were told the proprietor only expected you on the 18th. So, in Sidebotham v. Holland (1895), 1 Queen's Bench Division p. 378, Lord Justice Lindley in the Court of Appeal, speaking of notices to quit, says, "I can find no distinction between tenancies commencing 'at' a particular time or 'on' a particular day and 'from' the same day. 'At,' 'on,' and 'from,' and 'on and from,' are for this purpose equivalent expressions."

Now, when the context is looked at in the Proclamation, the laws that are to come into force from 17th are those *which shall at that date* be in force in Hongkong. The only date mentioned is 17th April and seeing the object was to make *all* the laws apply to the new territory, it was hardly likely it meant to say the laws in force in Hongkong on the 17th shall be in force on the 18th in the new part of the Colony. It seems to me rather to mean that the laws in force on the 17th in Hongkong should also be in force on the 17th in the new territory.

Again, Ordinance No. 10 of 1899 was intended to prevent the hardship to the new territories of having certain laws left in force there, not applicable to its circumstances. The Order of Her Majesty in Council had made all the laws of Hongkong to apply to those territories from the date fixed by the Governor's proclamation and decreed that such laws should then take effect and remain in force therein until the same should have been altered or repealed. Now Ordinance 10 of 1899 came into force immediately after midnight, *i.e.* twelve p.m. of 17th April (see section 16 of the Interpretation Ordinance 1897.) It was in force on the first minute of the 18th, and what does it recite, speaking as from that time? It says "and whereas the date so fixed by the Proclamation of the Governor in pursuance of the said Order was the 17th day of April, 1899, and the said laws and Ordinances accordingly then so took effect and are now in force."

Now, if the laws alluded to only took effect at the same moment as Ordinance No. 10 of 1899 it is strange that Ordinance should speak in the past tense and say "they then took effect," as well as adding "and are now in force." It is more reasonable to suppose the recital refers to laws which took effect on the 17th and were remaining in force on the early morning of the 18th. A further question, however, remains. Assuming, contrary to my present opinion, that the whole of the laws of Hongkong did not come into force in the new territory before the 18th was not the English law of murder in force in the new territory at least from the time it was formally taken over by the Hongkong authorities, namely, on Sunday, 16th April?

The Order in Council of the 20th October 1898, declared the new territories to be *thereby* made part and parcel of Her Majesty's Colony of Hongkong and declared it should be competent for the Governor of Hongkong and Legislative Council to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the said territories as part of the Colony, and then provided that all laws of Hongkong should come into force there from a date to be fixed by Proclamation. Now, although the Chinese authorities were allowed to exercise their jurisdiction and administer their law until the territory was actually taken over and the theoretical possession turned into an actual one, yet from the moment the Governor took over the territory, viz. 16th April, 1899, Chinese jurisdiction and law ceased to have effect, and although it might not be right to substitute *all* the complicated laws of Hongkong till the time proclaimed, it would be strange if people on British territory, forming part of the colony of Hongkong, could be murdered with impunity between the 16th and 18th April, 1899. It is one thing to say the *whole body of law*, civil and municipal, shall not apply till a certain time, it is another to hold that the elementary common law of England, protecting people from murder, shall not be in force. It seems to me rather that directly the territory was actually taken over, the people in it came within the Queen's peace and were entitled to the protection of life and person afforded by the English law of murder.

However, I will reserve the question for further consideration whether the English law of murder was in force on the 17th April, 1899, in that part of the Colony known as the New Territory, and try to decide it next Thursday. I will not reserve the question as to the date and amendment of the information as, I entertain no doubt that the 18th having been alleged in the information, it is sufficient if it is found the murder occurred shorthly before or shortly after 12 o'clock at night of the 17th April 1899.

5th July.

Tang Tsing Sz and Cheong Ting, who had been indicted for the murder of Tung Cheong, at Un Loong, on the 18th April, came up for sentence.

Mr. Justice Wise occupied a seat on the bench.

Mr. Slade, who appeared for prisoners, said that since Monday, when his Lordship delivered judgment on the point as to whether the Court had jurisdiction over the new territory on the 17th April, he had had an opportunity, which he had not before, on account of the shortness of time in which he had been instructed, of looking carefully into this question, and he had come to the conclusion that his Lordship's decision on that matter was right. He said this with great diffidence, but under the circumstances he did not think it was his duty to ask his Lordship to consider the matter any further, or to advance any further arguments on the question. He had given the matter great thought, and though when acting for a prisoner one ought to do all one could to assist him—not in order that he might escape the punishment of his crime, that being a most inaccurate way of putting it, but to give him both law and justice—he thought his Lordship would agree with him when he said he did not think it was the duty of counsel to press upon the Court arguments which he himself believed to be invalid, and under these circumstances he asked leave to withdraw the application he made that this point might be reserved. He left the matter in the hands of the Court entirely.

His Lordship said—At the request of the learned counsel for the prisoners, I reserved the question for further consideration whether on the 17th April, 1899, the English law of murder was in force in that part of the colony known as the New Territory. For reasons I stated at the time, I had, myself, no doubt that such law was then in force; but in view of the serious nature of the charge and desiring to give the prisoner's counsel the opportunity he wished of more closely examining the authorities, I thought that no harm could result from a further argument upon the subject. Mr. Slade has now had an opportunity of further considering the matter and has intimated that he no longer desires to dispute the position that I took at the trial in ruling that the English law of murder was in force on the 17th April at Un Loong, a position in which Mr. Justice Wise concurs. As the prisoner's counsel no longer desires to argue the point reserved, it only remains for me to give effect to the verdict of the jury and to pronounce upon the prisoners the sentence which the law requires me to pronounce in the case of men convicted of murder.

His Lordship then put on the black cap, and said—Tang Tsing Sz and Cheong Ting, you stand severally convicted of the crime of wilful murder. It was a very cruel and barbarous murder. You chained your victim round his neck, you bound him hand and foot, kept him confined in a pig basket, and, while in this defenceless condition, shot at him three or four times with a revolver and finally threw him into the creek, where his dead body was found six days afterwards by his son still chained and fastened to the pig basket. The man had committed no offence in posting a proclamation which only gave effect to the Convention made last year between the Emperor of China and Her Majesty the Queen. The sentence of the Court upon each of you is, that you be severally taken hence to the place from whence you came, and thence to the place of execution, and that you be there hanged by the neck until you be dead; and that your bodies be severally buried in such place as His Excellency the Governor shall order; and may the Lord have mercy on your souls!

The prisoners were then removed.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE BANK AT SHANGHAI.

PURCHASE OF PREMISES.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SHANGHAI, 4th July.

The Russo-Chinese Bank has brought Dent's property on the Bund, covering eight mow. The terms are private.

AFFAIRS ON THE MAINLAND.

The making of the roads on the mainland commenced the other month is being rapidly pushed on with, as many as 1,100 men being employed in the work. The building of Police Stations at Taipohu, Pingshan, and near Un Loong is also proceeding, and another will be commenced near Shamchun shortly. Why not at Shamchun? Is it because its retrocession to China is a foregone conclusion.

THE HAINAN LEKIN FARM.

We are informed by our correspondent at Hoihow that the Consuls at that port have taken measures towards the abolition of the lekin tax on kerosine oil, cotton, and cotton yarn referred to in our issue of the 17th June last, and that it may be predicted that the collectorate will soon be put a stop to.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE BATTLE OF ZAPOTE BRIDGE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

Imus, 24th June.

Two weeks ago on Saturday at three o'clock, an expedition under the command of General Lawton, consisting of twelve guns of the Sixth United States artillery and six regiments of infantry, began operations on the south line from San Pedro Macati, which have carried the troops to-day as far as the town of Imus, the old headquarters of Aguinaldo's Government, some fifteen miles south of Manila. The command was divided into two brigades under Brigadier General Hoyd Wheaton and Brigadier General Samuel Ovenshine, the former directing the Twelth, Twenty-first, and Ninth United States Infantry Regiments and the 1st Colorado Volunteers, while the latter commanded the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Regiments and Nevada Cavalry. After forming at San Pedro Macati, General Lawton headed the march mounted on his big black American horse, followed by Wheaton's brigade.

The troops snaked their way across the low hills in a line some three miles long until about opposite Taguig on the east, and Paranaque on the west, when a well filled trench was discovered on a line of mounds about two miles in the direction of Paranaque. Ovenshine immediately swung his brigade to the right and made a general demonstration against the defences of the town.

General Wheaton continued marching directly south, encountering and capturing three successive lines of trenches whose positions had been chosen with considerable skill. High grass, four to five feet long, covered the fields and hills in all directions and made the fighting extremely difficult and dangerous. Before eight o'clock the sun was high and scorching and the exhausted men began to drop out in constantly increasing numbers, and from this time on the wake of the army was marked by bunches of prostrated men, five to twenty together, strung out over the fields in all directions. More than six hundred men were treated by the surgeons and many returned to Manila, while others reported for duty the following morning. At eleven o'clock an hour's rest was given and then the march was resumed, the idea being to reach a point opposite Las Pinas and then change front to the right and advance to the bay. Overshine was to continue his demonstration against Paranaque, engaging the attention of those insurgents until Wheaton completed his movement and bottled up the intervening country. It was a pretty plan, designed to cut off the enemy's retreat, but like most others of this kind the plan failed, the wily insurgents scenting a trap and escaping before the arrival of the Americans, taking with them their stores and a big smooth bore cannon. The navy took a hand in the game and shelled the shore line and towns with great regularity. Paranaque church resembles a pepperbox, being literally full of holes.

Saturday night at seven o'clock Wheaton was just south of Las Pinas in time to hear the insurgent bugles blowing and dogs barking at the retreating enemy, after sixteen hours practically continuous marching and fighting under the burning tropical sun. In the morning the river was crossed and Las Pinas was entered and found deserted except for a few hundred families who claimed to be non-combatants; the Paranque garrison marched through to Bacoor the previous afternoon and night. The defences of Paranaque were most elaborate and consisted of two series of trenches fifteen to twenty feet thick, and along the bay shore a line of works nine miles long served as protection against the navy shells. On Sunday and Monday the troops rested and the Colorados and Thirteenth regiments returned to Manila. Reconnoitering parties scouted the surrounding country and developed the positions of the enemy, which were found strongest at Zaptote, on the road to Bacoor. On Wednesday a reconnaissance in force advanced across the fish traps and creeks between Las Pinas and the bay and marched up the beach. The insurgents were keenly on the watch and allowed the men to advance within one hundred yards of a trench hidden in the dense bamboo and harmless looking fishtraps, when they suddenly opened a galling fire from two sides. The two companies of Americans were momentarily caught in the open and in the first volleys the loss was most severe. For an hour the fight continued, General Lawton personally directing the movement being constantly exposed to the point blank fire of the sturdy insurgents. The troops fell back slowly, a short distance, until a better position was found, and there they settled down, not to fight it out but to engage the whole attention of the enemy, and prevent their use on other parts of the lines. The nearest aid was over a mile to the rear, and the swampy land made it equal to five miles, so that it was impossible to bring up help. As General Lawton said, in speaking of the affair afterwards, "the moment the insugents opened fire I knew I had the key of the Zapote stronghold and that if I could hold the dykes and swamp at this point I had the battle practically won; so I kept these men to their posts and rushed back to organize and force the attack on the bridge." However, the hot fire soon began to tell on the ammunition supply, which consisted of 150 cartridges carried in each man's belt. Scarcely a dozen rounds per man was left when Major Starr worked his way out to the beach with a private who wigwagged to the Navy for aid.

MARINES AND MACHINE GUN LANDED.

The *Monadnock* and *Helena* quickly responded, sending ashore one hundred and five marines and a Colt's machine gun. For three hours the little band held their precarious position until word was sent back to Las Pinas and the troops were hurried to the front.

THE BATTLE BEGINS IN EARNEST.

At one o'clock General Lawton had completed the arrangements for the attack and most of the troops were well on toward their positions on the firing lines. The 14th Infantry made a detour to the extreme left, marching in a somewhat semi-circular line until it reached the Zapote river half a mile east of the bridge. The 21st infantry and four guns of the artillery went against the bridge itself. The 9th infantry passed over the dyke ridges in single file, struggling chin deep through the muddy water until they reached the beach, when they deployed as skirmishers, lying flat along the sand and firing over into the dykes. The enemy was in an excellent position to see and comprehend all the preparations of the coming battle and accordingly made due arrangements for resistance and retreat. The battle opened with hot volley firing on the left and heavy shelling at the bridge with the 3.2-inch field guns, which were well posted on the road, at 700 yards range. The insurgents held fire for perhaps two minutes and then suddenly the whole line of trenches blazed out, filling the air with whistling Mausers; the big 6-inch smooth bore cannon, a relic of Cavite, followed with a tremendous boom and column of smoke, and as the old defective canister burst overhead, the better equipped Americans howled back derision.

THE ADVANCE.

The advance was immediately begun, the troops moving forward in regular line of battle, maintaining their formations with the greatest precision, and on the right the cannon were jerked steadily along, stopping only to fire, until the range had been decreased to three hundred yards. At this point a natural defence offered shelter, and a few moments' pause was made while the cannon pumped steadily away in an effort to dislodge the enemy. The insurgent smooth bore was heard only once more, as the fire poured over the works was so hot that no one could live to go over the trench and reload it. The Filipinos had constructed their embrasure in such a way that it was impossible to load the piece without exposing the men. Over on the right the navy Colt's spurted out a stream of lead that came very close to enfilading the trenches and completely cleared out the few men who remained along the beach front.

THE NAVY BOMBARDMENT.

The navy brought several ships into position and began a heavy bombardment, in which the *Monadnock*, *Helena*, *Monterey*, *Manila*, *Princeton*, *Callao*, a small gunboat and two launches participated. The church and principal houses of Bacoor and Zapote were thoroughly riddled and the beach was swept so clean that no one dared to come out and fire on the ninth infantry and Colt's gun crew, who were eagerly waiting a chance to get into the fight. For two hours more the fight continued with increasing fury and still the gritty natives stuck to their trenches, the dead lying about them and the wounded being hurried to the rear while the overwhelming forces of the army and navy pounded away with undiminished vigour.

THE BROKEN BRIDGE.

A span of the stone bridge across the Zapote had been knocked out, and as a final dash brought the soldiers naturally converging up to the roadway, the impossibility of dashing across disconcerted the men to some extent and there was hesitation, but it was only momentary, for they dropped flat on the ground and raked over the works with a fire against whose rapidity nothing could stand. The artillery took up its position at the very edge of the bridge and burst its shells at the apparently impossible range of 25 yards. The 3.2 inche guns were necessarily abandoned, as they could not be sufficiently depressed to be of any use, accordingly the little 1.65 c.m. Hotchkiss were substituted. Gradually the insurgent fire decreased, the men no longer looked over the trenches to fire, but merely laid the guns over the top and pulled the hammers. Bunches of Americans here and there stood boldly up and each picking out a spot watched for his own dusky head to scalp. Under this fire several fellows stripped off their clothes and swam the river carrying their guns and belts. Half a dozen jumped over in the very works themselves and cut out a shelter from which they fired directly along the trenches. What was left of the insurgent force broke out of their positions and dashed for the woods. The ninth and marines crossed over the dyke and joined General Wheaton's troop and the boasted stronghold of Zapote was lost. The parish priest of Las Pinas afterward said that only a few days before the entire insurgent force had sworn on the crucifix that they would die to a man before the Americans could cross the Zapote.

Generals Lawton and Overshine were conspicuously exposed at the bridge, from which point they directed the troops during the fighting. The Americans lost eleven killed and forty-one wounded; the insurgent burials amounted to one hundred and sixty odd. People who have come into the lines state that the wounded carried away numbered over four hundred.

The effect of the defeat was so severe that Aguinaldo's army was thoroughly demoralized for two or three days, so much so that it allowed the Americans to enter Imus without a fight.

THE TALE OF THE MAYOR OF IMUS.

Four days after Zapote, the Mayor of Imus came into the American lines and tried to find someone to whom he might give the surrender of his town. A little questioning disclosed the fact that the worthy Mayor was practically "A man out a job," as all the soldiers had gone and most of the country people had moved into the woods for a few days to allow the Americans easy entrance. However, he verbally surrendered his village and hustled off, as he explained, to try and get together a brass band to welcome the conquering heroes. There are evidences that the Mayor was honest in his purpose, but circumstances defeated him. That afternoon a drum and three brass instruments were gathered in by the soldiers, who confiscated the goods on the ground that the outfit was the remnant of General Pio del Pilar's band attempting to escape. A little later on a bass fiddle came across the fields, but when the sentry called out to halt the man took to his heels and in the chase the musician put his foot through the waist. So the music was lacking when Imus was occupied.

Nine thousand Spanish troops were required to take this place in the former insurrection.

Zapote Bridge was crossed only after a long campaign in 1896 and again last year the Spaniards retreating from Cavite suffered a sharp defeat at the same spot. The loss of the stronghold has materially weakened the insurgent position in Cavite Province.

THE CAMPHOR MONOPOLY IN FORMOSA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Taipeh, 29th June.

Preparations for the operation of the camphor monopoly law, which will come into force on the 5th August next, are now in progress, and it has been announced that six camphor offices will be established, namely, at Taipeh, Tekcham, Miori, Taichu, Rinkeho, and Giran. It is the intention of the Government to improve the present method of packing by making the chests of pine instead of camphor-wood as hitherto and lining them with zinc, so that the contents can be kept for a long time without loss by evaporation.

If all the stills now in use are well managed they have a capacity of turning out some 150,000 piculs a year, while the world's consumption is roughly estimated at forty or fifty thousand piculs only. The Government therefore intends to greatly decrease the present number of stills so as to keep a fair proportion between demand and supply and to ensure a fair price for the drug.

The advisability of the Government's taking the manufacture entirely into its own hands is gradually gaining advocates in official circles, but in view of the keen opposition to this course to be anticipated from the present manufacturers it may be regarded as fairly certain that a year or two will elapse before the authorities can carry out the plan.

According to official announcement crude camphor of the best quality will be purchased at 30 yen per picul delivered at Taipeh, and already the manufacturers are beginning to complain of the low price at which they are compelled to sell their

produce. They urge that if they suffer damage to their factories by flood or the raids of savages the low price fixed upon will leave them no margin from which to make good the loss.

As regards the manner in which the Government will sell its camphor nothing definite has been decided, but according to a competent authority the Government will not sell the drug at all for the present but will allow an interval of six months or a year to elapse, when it is anticipated the article will fetch three times the price paid for it to the producers. Owing to the importance of increasing the general revenue to make it balance the expenditure the Government, it is stated, desire to get a million yen out of the monopoly.

THE HOSPITAL SISTERS MEMORIAL.

We take the following from the Notes for July issued by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral:—

In the North Transept has been placed a stained glass window in memory of two Hospital Nurses who died last year. The work has been executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler and Bayne of London, from a design approved by Mr. C. Palmer. We think that the window will be very much admired; and it is an interesting fact that the designer is a lady who was well known in Hongkong a few years ago. The manufacturers, with whom the order was to be placed, invited Mr. Shields to submit a design. This gentleman could not do it at the time, owing to press of other work, but he suggested the name of one of his former pupils whose work he could thoroughly recommend. The result is that we have a beautiful window designed by Miss Kate Coughtrie. And it is the more interesting by reason of its position in the Cathedral next to the "Stewart Window" which was chosen eight years ago by her father.

The subject of the window is so plain and appropriate that it hardly needs any description. However, we venture to give the following: In the upper portion are two women, each of whom seems to combine the characteristics of devotion and work which were severally displayed by Mary and Martha of Bethany. One, on the right of the picture, is looking upward to the calm face of the Saviour, as though seeking the direction of His will: the other is in an attitude of service administering the cup of relief to a dying man. Over them, but unseen by them, on the left, is an Angel of Reward bearing for them the Martyr's palm. Above all is an emblematic crown. The whole picture very beautifully illustrates the words: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these....., ye did it unto Me." In the lower portion of the window are two angelic figures, one carrying a crown, and the other a 'book,' and bearing respectively on a scroll the words, "I will give thee a crown of life," and "I will give them an everlasting name." The name of the two Nurses, with the dates of their deaths are in the window. The work has been beautifully executed from a very artistic, appropriate and effective design.

Under the window is brass plate with the following inscription:—"In loving memory of of Elizabeth Frances Higgin and Emma Gertrude Ireland, who died in 1898 of plague contracted on duty. They were for nearly eight years members of the Nursing Staff of the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong. This window was placed in Saint John's Cathedral by the Community of Hongkong."

The *Straits Times* of the 26th June says:—The German cruiser *Kaiser*, 2,223 tons, Captain Stubenrauch, arrived yesterday morning from Amoy and exchanged salutes with the port. She carries 36 guns, is of 8,000 horse-power, and has a crew of 612. She is expected to leave for Colombo on Monday next. The *Kaiser* has had a large amount of money spent on her during her stay in Chinese waters, but it is stated that the recent performances of her engines have been anything but satisfactory. Rumour has it that she will have to be towed to Europe. From an architectural point of view the *Kaiser* is certainly the ugliest specimen of the modern warship that has passed through Singapore.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 30th June for the purpose of recommending sites for four latrines and to consider the question of further search parties for plague. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT said the sub-committee appointed to consider the question of the sites for new latrines had sent in their report and recommended two sites. One was on Crown land at the junction of Pound lane with Taipingshan street, bounded on the north by Taipingshan street, on the east by Sui King lane, on the south by Kat-cheong lane, and on the west by Pound lane. The other was on Crown land at the back of the Harbour Office. He proposed that a reply be sent to the Colonial Secretary recommending the sites mentioned.

Dr. CLARK seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Standing Orders having been suspended, the President said that during the last month 21 cases of bubonic plague had occurred at British Kowloon, most of them during the last week. He proposed that the peninsula of British Kowloon be declared infected.

Dr. CLARK seconded, and the motion was carried.

The PRESIDENT said that he called the members together to consider the advisability of starting search parties for Nos. 4, 5, and 6 districts. At present there were no search parties in these districts, which were the most populous in the city. The difficulty was that they could not obtain any police to assist in this work this year, on account of their being engaged in other work. He was strongly in favour of the establishment of search parties.

Mr. OSBORNE spoke in favour of the search parties being instituted again. He remarked that search parties would force the Chinese who were sick to leave the colony. He believed the number of cases of plague which came before the Sanitary Board were a very small proportion indeed of the number which actually occurred. He believed the returns to the Sanitary Board practically represented the corpses which had been found. He thought this a fitting occasion to call the attention of the Government to the utter helplessness of the Board in times of epidemic on account of their not having a proper staff. They had not half the number of men they ought to have, and the men they had were not sufficiently paid for what they had to do. They wanted a better class of men and a great many more of them. He proposed that the Government be recommended to call for volunteers, European and Chinese interpreters, and to ask the military authorities to lend the assistance of the number of soldiers required.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-president (Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works) Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

SANITARY SURVEYOR.

The Secretary reported the appointment of Mr. Drury as Sanitary Surveyor.

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION.

The Hon. R. M. Rumsey, writing to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board on the 16th June, said:—"With reference to a notice recently served upon me by order of the Sanitary Board, calling upon me to re-lay the surfaces of the backyard and servants' quarters at my house, R. B. L. 25, I have to request that you will lay before the Board the enclosed letter from Messrs. Denison and Ram, to whom I had referred the work and I trust that the Board on perusal thereof will reconsider the matter and under the circumstances will not insist on putting me to the expense of breaking up and relaying the surfaces referred to."

In the letter referred to Messrs. Denison and Ram say:—"We find that the whole surface of the yard, cookhouses, and sleeping rooms used by your servants are covered with a perfectly good surface of cement. Whether this is laid upon six inches of lime concrete—which the Sanitary Board requires in the case of new works—we cannot say, but we have no hesitation in saying that your quarters are in excellent condition from a sanitary point of view, and that they are covered with an impervious material—in point of fact a good deal more impervious than the six inches of rather indifferent lime concrete which is often laid down."

The PRESIDENT said that as this floor seemed to be impervious and was not a cause of nuisance he moved that the application be granted.

The Hon. R. D ORMSBY seconded, and the motion was carried.

APPLICATION FROM THE DIOCESAN SCHOOL.

An application for permission to erect four waterclosets at the Diocesan School on Bonham road was submitted.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Dr. CLARK, the application was refused.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CENTRAL MARKET.

A report of a sub-committee of the Board on the lighting of the Central Market was submitted.

THE PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

A report from the British Consulate at Tainan stated that the number of cases of bubonic plague which occurred in the prefecture from the 30th May to the 5th of June inclusive was 53, the deaths numbering 45 and the recoveries 19. For the period June 6th to June 12th inclusive the cases numbered 37, the deaths being 35 and the recoveries 20; from January 7th to June 12 there were 2,106 cases, with 1,600 deaths and 427 recoveries. Acting Consul Griffiths remarks. "I am happy to say the epidemic appears now to be rapidly subsiding."

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended June 24th showa death rate of 50.4, against 38.1 for the previous week and 14.7 for the corresponding week last year.

The mortality returns from Macao show 52 deaths (including one from plague) for the week ended June 11th, 69 (including five from plague), for the week ended June 18th, and 80 (including 12 from plague) for the week ended June 25th.

LIMEWASHING IN THE WESTERN DIVISION.

Mr. OSBORNE proposed that proceedings be taken against the owners of the 1,583 tenements in the Western Division which had not been cleansed and limewashed in accordance with the law. Only one-third of the tenements in this most insanitary district had been cleansed according to law—that was at their own expense—and as the Board had given every reasonable warning to the people to cleanse these premises he thought nothing more remained but to enforce the law.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY seconded and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

THE PLAGUE.

The weekly returns for the past two months are as follows:—

WEEK ENDED.	CASES.	DEATHS.
May 6	64	52
" 13	89	69
" 20	87	70
" 27	143	134
June 3	92	97
" 10	97	91
" 17	109	115
" 24	148	138
July 1	142	144

The daily returns for the present week are as follows:—

	CASES.	DEATHS.
July 2	14	16
" 3	15	15
" 4	14	14
" 5	8	13
" 6	16	9
" 7	16	14

The total number of cases reported up to yesterday was 1,170 and the deaths 1,105.

THE LAW AS TO VERANDAHS.

It may be remembered that when Ordinance 4 of 1888, the object of which is to prohibit the enclosure of verandahs erected over Crown land, was passed it was for a time enforced with vigour and caused no little irritation. Afterwards the law was allowed to fall practically into abeyance. Now it is again being strictly enforced. The Ordinance provides:—

1.—From and after the passing of this Ordinance it shall not be lawful to erect any partition in, or enclose, or partially enclose, any portion of any verandah now erected, or which may hereafter be erected, on Crown land, nor to make use of any such verandah, or any part thereof, as a bath-room, urinal, water-closet, sleeping apartment, store-room or cook-room, nor to allow rain or other water to be projected therefrom.

2.—On the passing of this Ordinance all partitions in, any enclosures of any portion of any verandah erected on or over Crown land shall be removed, and the Surveyor-General shall, in all cases where such partitions are not removed, give written notice to the owner or occupier of the house or part of the house to which the verandah is attached, requiring him, to the Surveyor-General's satisfaction, to remove all such partitions and enclosures except bamboo blinds capable of being rolled up (within a specified and reasonable time), and in case the said owner or occupier shall not obey or comply with the said notice he shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding $100, and to a further fine not exceeding $20 per day so long as the said notice is not complied with.

3.—Any person contravening or disobeying the provisions of section 1 of this Ordinance shall be liable upon summary conviction before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding $50 for the first offence, and to a fine not exceeding $200 for the second and any subsequent offence.

4. This ordinance shall not apply to buildings occupied by the Amiralty or War Department."

As we have stated, this Ordinance has for some time been practically a dead letter, verandahs having been used for storing goods and otherwise misused, with the result that the ventilation of houses has been seriously interfered with. Some persons have already been fined for offending against the Ordinance, and further summonses have been taken out.

THE PIERS ORDINANCE.

PETITION BY THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LIMITED.

The following petition from the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, against the second reading of the Bill entitled the Piers Ordinance, 1899, is published in the *Gazette*.

To the Honourable The Legislative Council of Hongkong.

The Humble Petition of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited.

Respectfully Sheweth:—

(1.)—That your petitioners are desirous of being heard before this Honourable Council by Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., their counsel on the motion for the second reading of a Bill read a first time at the meeting of this Honourable Council held on the 20th instant entitled "The Piers Ordinance, 1899," or at such other time as may be appointed for the purpose.

(2.)—That the rights and interests of your petitioners in the Piers and Wharves owned by them in Victoria and at Kowloon and in their property generally is peculiarly affected by the proposed Bill and that they claim to be heard by your Honourable Council under the provisions of paragraph 52 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council of Hongkong.

(3.)—That your petitioners are the Assignees of certain rights, powers, and privileges granted and conferred by this Honourable Council to and upon Francis Bulkeley Johnson and Catchick Paul Chater respectively by Ordinances Nos. 18 and 19 of 1884 respectively, and that if the Bill now befor this Honourable Council should become law, your petitioners will be thereby deprived of many of the rights, powers, and privileges secured to them by the said Ordinances and will be grieviously affected and injured in their properties and possessions.

By the said Ordinances your Petitioners as Assignees of the said Francis Bulkeley Johnson and Catchick Paul Chater have the right for twenty years from the date of the said Ordinances, that is to say, until the 12th day of June, 1904, to do all or any of the things hereinafter mentioned free from all rents, fees and charges whatsoever, ordinary rates and taxes only excepted:—

(i.) To construct such and so many Wharves and Piers extending into the harbour of Hongkong as they may think requisite and proper at and from any part or parts of the Public Praya lying directly opposite Marine Lots 95, 96, 97 and 98 in Victoria and Kaulung Marine Lots 9, 11, 20 and 21.

(ii.)— To make such alterations and additions to such Wharves and Piers as they may at any time think requisite and proper.

(iii.)—To have for themselves and their Assigns the exclusive use of such wharves and piers with full power to mortgage, sell and assign, or to demise and let the said Piers as they shall think fit.

(iv.)—To make Rules and Regulations for the maintenance and use of the said wharves and piers and have the same enforced by fines and penalties.

(v.)—To hold and exercise all the rights, powers, and privileges granted by the said Ordinances free from all rent and charges in the nature of rents or license fees and subject only to stipulations and conditions in the said Ordinances expressly reserved and contained and to the general law.

Your Petitions respectfully submit that by the provisions of the Bill read a first time on the 20th June and entitled "The Piers Ordinance, 1899," they will, contrary to the rights, powers, and privileges conferred upon and secured to them and their assigns by the said Ordinances 18 and 19 of 1884, be made subject to the payment of rent calculated upon a scale far in excess of any rent now paid for any Marine Lot let under lease from the Crown for 999 years. They will be deprived of the exclusive use of the Wharves and Piers constructed by them at an immense expense for the special purposes of their business in reliance upon the provisions of the said Ordinances and of the good faith of the Government of Hongkong. They will be prevented from increasing the number of, or in any way adding to, or altering, their said Wharves and Piers. They will be deprived of their right to cover in their said Wharves and Piers if the necessities of their business should render it expedient for them so to do, and of their power and privilege to make Rules and Regulations for the maintenance and use of their said Wharves and Piers. They will be extremely hampered in the conduct of their business as Wharfingers and Godown keepers by the proposed regulations in the said Bill contained by which access by water to their Wharves and Piers is or may be restricted and by the prohibitions therein contained as to storing or keeping materials thereon.

They will, lastly, be deprived of their right to mortgage, sell, assign, or demise their said Wharves and Piers as the requirements of their said business may render advisable or necessary.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray. That they may be heard by their Counsel against the said Bill upon its second reading or at such other time as your honourable Council may think fit to hear them.

And Your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c. &c.,

J. J. KESWICK,
Chairman of the Board of Directors.
C. P. CHATER,
Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors.
Edward Osborne, Secretary of the Company.
Hongkong, 24th June, 1899.

A Tokyo despatch of the 22nd June, published by the *Kobe Chronicle*, states:—The latest telegram from London to the Government regarding the Japanese new loan bonds, states that that they are improving, and journalistic comments have ceased. The first payment of £15 for each £100 has been concluded, and selling at a low price has ceased. The quotation now stands at £88¼.

HONGKONG AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

The following correspondence on the subject of the proposed arrangements for the protection of Chinese revenue in Hongkong, which was laid before the Legislative Council on the 27th June, is published in the *Gazette*:—

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HONGKONG, 29th July, 1898,

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch received on 23rd July from H. B. M.'s Minster at Peking enclosing copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Chinese Customs setting forth arrangements which, in Sir Robert Hart's opinion, are necesary for the protection of Chinese revenue under the new circumstances created by the extension of Hongkong territory, and to submit for your consideration, comments and observations on the matter treated in Sir Robert Hart's numbered paragraphs, which I follow.

1.—I strongly recommend that the Chinese Customs be not formally accorded the right to maintain its office in Hongkong and that the Commissioner of Customs be not recognised as a Chinese Official but that he remain as at present without official status of any kind. The English Government has always recognised the objections to a Chinese Consul in Hongkong, and a Consul's functions are strictly limited by law, much more should we object to the establishment in our midst of a Chinese official with ill-defined and unlimited powers. The Chinese Government should, I think, be permitted to to have an agency in the Colony of a purely mercantile character merely for the purpose of issuing opium certificates unconnected in any way with any other kinds of goods and entirely of an unofficial character and beyond the control of any recognised officer of the Chinese Customs. The existing sub-stations—Changchow, Capsuimoon, Laichikok, and Fotochow—should be removed to points outside the leased territory; their retention on the present sites would be a fruitful source of friction and would always be misconstrued by the Chinese mind—there are many points both on the coast and on adjacent islands where the Chinese Customs could establish its new stations.

2.—The proposal to give the Chinese Customs the right to levy duties within the Colony of Hongkong would be a surrender to China of one of the primary functions of Government, and the right of having special jetties where these unprecedented operations would take place.

3.—A somewhat similar argument may be employed against the proposal that Chinese Customs' cruisers and launches should be allowed to exercise their functions within British waters. Besides being an infringement of our sovereignty such right of search would interfere in an undue and unreasonable manner with the whole junk trade of the Colony and could not fail to lead to frequent complications.

Moreover, as these Chinese Customs' vessels are officered by men of all nationalities, it would be inexpedient to give them by right such opportunities of reconnaissance and of noting naval and military arrangements. In short, it would be unwise to increase the privileges which they at present enjoy.

4.—The fourth proposal is unobjectionable as it merely sets forth an existing state of affairs.

5.—This Government has no intention to abrogate the present law concerning the movement, &c., of opium and will be prepared to consider any amendments necessary to meet new circumstances which may be submitted. The second portion of the fifth proposal giving a Chinese official the right to inspect establishments and shops in British territory and to overhaul their books and accounts is, I submit, wholly inadmissible.

6.—There is no idea of relaxing the present enforcement of Colonial laws. The question, however, of regarding its own officers must be left entirely to the discretion of this Government, which cannot be expected to arrange for an equal division of the proceeds of sale of confiscated goods between itself and the Chinese Government.

7.—Arms and munitions of war are now by local legislation forbidden to be shipped. As regards other contraband goods, *e.g.*, salt, there seems to be no right on the part of one Government to claim the assistance of another Government in preventing the export of such articles. The suggestion that all permits should be issued or countersigned by the Chinese Customs is not feasible in view of the previous declaration against tolerating any officer of the Chinese Customs exercising his functions within British jurisdiction.

8 Any legislation that this Government may reasonably be called upon to enact to prevent the freedom of the port being abused to the prejudice of the neighbouring Empire will be introduced, but I submit that to give effect to the discarded proposals of Sir Robert Hart would be to hand over this free port to the domination of the Chinese Customs.

With reference to the *quid pro quo* of an easier working of the West River trade and of that likely to grow up under the new inland steam navigation rules which is suggested in the concluding portion of the Inspector General's letter, it is not necessary to say more than that the easy working of those regulations is already the duty of China and cannot be accepted as a reason for granting to China abnormal jurisdiction within this colony.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. Black.
Major-General,
Administering the Government,

The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlian M.P &c., &c., &c.,

H.B.M. MINISTER, PEKING, TO OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

Peking, 11th July, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose, for Your Excellency's consideration, copy of a letter addressed by Sir Robert Hart, in which he sets forth the arrangements necessary, in his opinion, for the protection of Chinese revenue under the new circumstances created by the recent extension of Hongkong territory.

A copy of the letter has also been forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

Claude M. MacDonald.

His Excellency Major-General Wilsone Black, C.B., Administering the Government, Hongkong.

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CHINESE IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS TO H.B.M. MINISTER, PEKING.

Inspectorate General of Customs,
Peking, 27th June, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's despatch of 24th June, informing me that you have received a communication from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs asking you, in view of the recent leasing to Great Britain of part of Kowloon peninsula and the adjacent islands, what arrangements the Imperial Maritime Customs of China would propose and where stations would be placed, and in reply to state in the following numbered paragraphs what, in my opinion, will be necessary in and around Hongkong and its new territory to safeguard the revenue interests of China—a task which will be made, in consequence of the increased area to be looked after, both onerous and expensive. The proposals are made in the belief that Her Majesty's Government desire to give China liberal and sustained support in the protection of her revenue in that neighbourhood :—

1.—The right of the Chinese Customs to maintain its office in Hongkong—where it is now only unofficially acknowledged—ought to be formally admitted and the status of the Commissioner of Customs as a Chinese official recognised. The existing sub-stations at Changchow, Capsuimoon, Lai-chee-kok, and Fotochow ought to be maintained as at present although they are in the leased territory. If it should be found that other stations are required they may be instituted.

2.—The Chinese Customs at Hongkong shall have the right there to collect duty and likin on any opium and similarly dues and duties on general cargo shipped on any native vessel to or from China. The Customs ought also to have the right to one or more special jetties in proximity to junk anchorages at which cargo may be examined and verified.

3.—The Chinese Customs' cruisers and launches may continue to exercise their functions within the waters of the leased territory.

4.—No opium, raw or boiled, shall be landed or stored, taken delivery of or shipped in Hongkong, British Kowloon, or any of the leased territory without a permit to be issued by a Colonial Authority. Opium moved without permit, or found anywhere or in any quantity in contravention of Colonial Ordinance, shall be confiscated,

5.—The Opium Farm, *i.e.*, an official establishment with an exclusive right to retail (only boiled) opium shall be maintained, and the Ordinances Nos. 22 of 1887 and 2 of 1891, concerning opium movement, &c., shall be confirmed and amended to meet new circumstances and to make good those points on which they are insufficient.

The boiling establishments of the Farm, its retailing shops, and its books and accounts shall be open at any time to the inspection of officers of the Chinese Customs specially deputed for that purpose.

6.—All Ordinances regarding the possession, movements, preparation, or sale of opium in the Colony and its waters, afloat and ashore, shall be rigidly enforced by the Colonial Executive and its officers rewarded from proceeds of seizures with a view to encouraging zeal.

All proceeds of sale of confiscated goods shall be divided equally between the Chinese and Colonial Governments.

7.—No arms, munitions of war, or contraband goods may be shipped on any vessels proceeding to a Chinese port in Hongkong or its waters, without a permit issued or countersigned by the Chinese Customs.

8.—The Hongkong Government shall pass such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above provisions.

The above numbered paragraphs are put forward merely to represent what I consider is proper should be done at Hongkong to meet Chinese revenue requirements. I may, however, express the opinion that the system it provides for, and more especially the recognised presence of a fully authorized Chinese Customs establishment at Hongkong, gives promise of enabling measures to be taken which will make the working of the West River trade, especially at those places of call to seawards of the first port (Samshui), considerably easier than at present; also of securing arrangements which might facilitate the trade anticipated to grow up under the new inland steam rules. In both respects anything may that be possible—and without a Customs House I do not see that much will be possible—is sure to redound to the commercial advantage of the colony as well as of the Chinese trade. On this point, however, the occasion does not call upon me to say more at present.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

Robert Hart,
I. G. of Customs.

His Excellency Sir C. M. MacDonald, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Hongkong, 13th August, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to my despatch No. 221 of the 29th ultimo forwarding arguments against the acceptance of Sir Robert Hart's proposals for the working of the Imperial Maritime Customs after we have taken over the newly leased territory, I have the honour to transmit for your consideration copy of a letter from the local Chamber of Commerce which embodies, I believe, the views of most of the commercial men in Hongkong on this subject.

As regards their reference to assisting for a *quid pro quo* the Chinese Government more than at present in collection of duties on opium, I think it quite possible that steps might be taken in this direction, and as opium is after all the chief commodity for which the Chinese Government keeps up its expensive fleet of cruisers and launches round Hongkong, the Chinese Government might, in exchange for this increased aid, be induced to withdraw these vessels altogether from these waters and thus decrease its expenditure while increasing its revenue.

The Chamber of Commerce has not entered sufficiently into detail in this matter, but I venture to suggest for your consideration a workable plan which may be summarized somewhat as follows:—

1st.—On arrival of ship from India her manifest handed to Harbour Master. Supplemented if need be by a return from the Calcutta Customs of Opium shipped.

2nd.—All opium to be stored in godowns under Government control.

3rd.—No opium to be moved from these godowns without permit from Harbour Master.

4th.—Harbour Master receives a copy of Bill of Lading of all Opium shipped.

5th.—Harbour Master sends every evening to Imperial Maritime Customs return of all Opium shipped and whither bound.

6th.—Imperial Maritime Customs can then arrange for the duty on this amount of Opium at the port of destination

I forward this letter from the Chamber of Commerce without delay as I consider it right, should you think its contents worthy of consideration, that the letter should reach you as soon as possible—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient Servant.

W. Black.
Major-General
Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, M.P. &c., &c., &.,

SECRETARY, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TO COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 12th August, 1898.

Sir,—In view of the extension of territory acquired by the Convention of the 9th June, I am instructed by the Committee of this Chamber to lay before the Government their opinion on the question of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs *vis-à-vis* this colony. The Committee believe that some understanding was given to the effect that the extension of the boundaries should not prove a source of loss to the Chinese revenue, and they quite concur in the desire to assist the Chinese Government in the matter, so long as it can be done without hampering the trade, or impeding the development, of the colony, the future prospects of which, with enlarged boundaries, on its present basis of absolute freedom, are very promising. To secure their fulfilment, however, it should, in the first place, be laid down that the existing Customs Stations must be removed to Chinese territory, outside the Colony's boundaries, and that the harbour be jealously guarded from the intrusion of Chinese revenue craft of any description. The delays and obstructions to the movements of shipping, were the Chinese Customs allowed a free hand in our waters, would constitute a serious interference with that freedom, which has mainly contributed to build up the present prosperity of this port. Without such provision, too, it would be impossible to have that free communication and interchange of produce between Victoria and the outlying additions to the Colony, which may naturally be expected to develop.

That some advantage might accrue to the Colony by its being placed on the footing of a Treaty Port, and therefore participating in the facilities afforded by the Inland Steam Regulations, is quite possible, but such advantages would be greatly outweighed by the counterbalancing drawbacks. For the Colony to accept them as equivalent for the freedom of the port, would be like bartering its birthright for a mess of pottage.

This Chamber, while invincibly opposed to the continuance in the Colony of the Customs Collectorate of a Foreign State, have no wish to place any impediment in the way of that State obtaining its rightful revenue, nor do they desire that a single dollar should be made by the Hongkong Government at the expense of China, but this can, they believe, be readily effected without the maintenance of any Customs Stations or Collectorate within the Colony.

The chief article which requires special protection for the Chinese Government is opium, and the Committee are of opinion that, in con-

nection with this import, more could perhaps be done than is at present by the Hongkong Government in safeguarding the Chinese revenue. The present system of licensing an opium farmer leaves much to be desired, and the committee would suggest that the Government should give its consideration to the formulation of some other scheme which will not only provide an effective check on the import of the drug but will trace it also to consumption or exportation.

While, however, the Committee are prepared to sanction some sacrifice in revenue in order to secure in prepetuity the freedom of the port, they would point out that in addition to, and apart from, the objections already named to the proposals of the Chinese Imperial Martime Customs, the damage to British prestige in China, and in the Far East generally, by the practical conversion of this Colony into a Chinese Treaty Port would be most serious, and in the eyes of the Cantonese, at any rate, would reduce Hongkong into a dependency of the Chinese Empire. Rather than accept an arrangement so humiliating, so darogatory to Great Britain, and so detrimental to the Colony's best interests, the Committee would be disposed to recommend the abrogation of the Convention and a reversion to the previous conditions.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Honourable T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT TO H.B.M. MINISTER, PEKING.

Government House,
Hongkong, 5th August, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge Your Excellency's despatch of the 11th July, received on the 25th July, enclosing copy of a letter from Sir Robert Hart in which he sets forth the arrangements necessary in his opinion for the recent extension of Hongkong territory.

In reply, I beg to transmit copy of extract from a despatch addressed by me to the Secretary of State for the Colonies dealing *seriatim* with the numbered paragraphs of the Inspector-General's letter.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. BLACK,
Major-General,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, Peking.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT TO H.B.M. MINISTER, PEKING.

Government House,
Hongkong, 15th August, 1898.

Sir.—So as to keep Your Excellency acquainted with the course of events in Hongkong regarding the Convention signed on the 9th June last, I have the honour to enclose copies of a letter from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce and of my despatch to the Secretary of State transmitting the same.

I need hardly add that the suggestion made therein as to aiding the Imperial Maritime Customs in the collection of Opium duties presupposes as a *sine qua non* the total withdrawal of Chinese Customs Stations and of their revenue craft from the waters of Hongkong.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. BLACK,
Major-General,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency Sir CLAUDE M. MACDONALD, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, Peking.

The coal-mine in Wakamatsu Prefecture where such a terrible explosion occurred on the 14th instant, is of considerable magnitude. At the time of the accident the number of workmen employed was 800, and the daily output was abont a million catties. It is estimated that the loss resulting from the catastrophe will be at least a hundred thousand yen. The principal owner, Mr. Hiraoka, is now travelling in Europe.—*Japan Mail.*

THE OPENING UP OF THE "LONG SHORE SUNSTROKE ROUTE" TO ABERDEEN.

SUGGESTED RULES IN VIEW OF THE OPENING UP OF THE GERSHOM-STEWART "SUN STROKE" ROUTE TO ABERDEEN.

(Contributed).

Rule 1.—No person to be allowed to traverse this proposed route unless in perfect health, and to have a medical certificate from Doctor "Jim."

2.—Every traveller to be provided with a box of Beecham's Pills, Mother Siegel Syrup, Eno's fruit salt, Dr. Lalor's phosphodyne, a green veil, blue spectacles, a spinal ice bag, a large white umbrella, a hand fan, &c., and a copy of Dante's "Inferno" and Milton's "Paradise Lost" for perusal on the road.

3. A doctor to be stationed at every mile, in a comfortable shelter provided with ice-restoratives, Bovril, and cocktails, to be assisted by the Chimese medical students to care for all travellers struck down by the sun.

4.—All travellers to be insured in the Accident Insurance office; each traveller also to have made his will and executed a power of attorney in case of dangerous illness.

5.—That a cold storage room for those suffering from the sun be also provided and that all indisposed persons be placed therein. That a sufficient supply of tomb-stones with name and date spaces left vacant be kept ready for use over the foolish wayfarers who traverse this "Burning Fiery Furnace Road."

6.—That the following names be given to the different points of interest on the "Sunstroke Route" from Kennedytown to Aberdeen, viz:—1, Bacillus Bay; 2, Germ Inlet; 3, Bubonic Creek; 4, Pest House Point; 5, Cemetery View; 6, Cold Comfort Harbour; 7, Necropolis Prospect; 8, Sunstroke Corner, 9, Valley of the Shadow of Death; 10, Cremation Creek; 11. Deadman's Point; 12, Purgatory Causeway; 13, Limbo Lane; 14, Shadrack, Meshak, and Abednego's pest; 15, Fire Worshippers' Hill; 16, Hades Creek; 17, Mount Misery; and that at Aberdeen the "Sunstroke Route Necropolis" be opened.

7.—That on the site of the present Jubilee Memorial stone beyond Kennedytown a statue of Mr. Gershom Stewart be erected as "The Champion of Lost Causes," holding in his hand the Mount Austin petition and the scheme for the overland "Sunstroke Route" to Aberdeen.

We propose later on to publish the extra military precautions that will need to be taken on account of the cutting of this new road round Mount Davis, and we notice that it increases the military contribution to 30 per cent. on the Colonial revenue.

MOONSTRUCK.

FIGHT BETWEEN GUARD-BOAT AND LEKIN STATION.

OFFICIAL SMUGGLING.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Wuchow, 30th June.

As an instance of the way the Chinese Government do things the following is interesting:—

A guard boat was sent from this place up to Ssünchow—why, history does not relate. Coming down river the guard boat thought they might as well earn an honest penny by carrying a little cargo. One of the lekin stations, thinking that swindling of all kinds should be solely their monopoly, hailed the guard boat to stop and submit to examination (squeeze). Guard boat refused. Lekin station fired guns. Guard boat fired guns. Result, 10 or 11 men killed. Yesterday bodies were spread out for the Magistrate's inspection on the river bank here. Nice country! Nice Government!

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 26th June says:—A number of German officers and engineers (twenty-two in number) arrived by the *Bayern* last week to fill vacancies as they occur in the local vessels formerly belonging to Alfred Holt. The *Hecate* has become the *Patani*, and the *Deucalion* on Wednesday will become the *Sandakan*.

THE MISSIONARY DISTURBANCES IN FOKIEN.

A Foochow correspondent writes us that since the missionaries from up-country arrived at Foochow violent placards have been posted at Kienning and elsewhere saying that all the missionaries are to be killed and their property destroyed and the mardarins sent about their business. There seems to be considerable unrest and what by some is called an anti-foreign spirit, but it would, in our correspondent's opinion, be more correct to say an anti-missionary spirit. In the foreign settlement at Foochow and in the surrounding country foreigners are everywhere well received and such troubles as befalls shooting parties from Hongkong to Castle Peak Bay are unknown. Lay opinion at Foochow seems to be that missionaries have no right to go to places where they may reasonably expect to be molested.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 24th June gives the following account of the rioting:—

Last week we recorded the burning of the C.M.S. Church and Mission-house in Kienning City and the fortunate escape of the Missionaries on the 15th inst. Three native assistants were brutally murdered and without doubt the same fate would have overtaken the English ladies had they not been warned in time and managed to get away. The hospital is about two miles outside the city and this was next attacked, but happily not before Dr. Rigg was able to make good his escape. The building was not burned as was expected, which may be attributed to the interceding of grateful natives who had received relief there, The mob, however, were not to be balked altogether and they looted the place instead. The 16th, 17th, and 18th inst. were very trying days to the friends of the Rev. H. S. and Mrs. Phillips and Miss Sears, who were stationed at Kienyang, 40 miles beyond Kienning. Nothing direct or reliable had been heard of them; but each of these three days reports of rumours reached Foochow which left little hope of their ever being seen again alive. Early in the morning of the 19th a message was received announcing the certainty of their deaths. Suspense was at an end: the worst had happened; and the news was telegraphed home. The consternation was great. What was to happen next? All missionaries from stations west of Foochow had been recalled and a launch had been sent up to Sueykow in charge of the Rev. White and Rev. Walsh of the C.M.S. to bring all down, but then the question was, would those at Kucheng escape in time? The gloom cast over Foochow by the reported deaths, however, was not of long duration. Before noon Mr. Consul Fraser issued an "Express" making it publicly known that H. E. the Viceroy had received a telegram from the authorities in the country advising the safety of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and Miss Sears in the magistrate's yamen at Kienyang. Of course general relief was felt, and the telegrams despatched home early in the morning had to be contradicted. The false reports are said to have been the work of the Kiangsi boatmen. The Rev. H. S. Phillips and party after having been sheltered in the magistrate's yamen for three days, left Kienyang on the 19th instant with an escort provided by the magistrate, and arrived at Sueykow, where they were met by the Rev. White and Rev. Walsh and brought, with the body of recalled missionaries, to Foochow.

We mentioned last week that it was thought the mob was composed of the same class of men as those engaged in the Kucheng Massacre. That may be, but it is not at all certain who the instigators of this rioting were. The hatred of the Kienning people for foreigners is well known and they are quite capable of initiating any business of this kind without outside prompting. The placards, which appeared about a month ago charging the foreigners with all sorts of atrocities and calling upon the people to rise and kill them and destroy their property, were at once ordered to be taken down by the authorities. Similar placards were posted about Kienyang with the addition to the charges against foreigners that they had caves constructed in their premises to throw children's bodies in. On the invitation of Mr. Phillips the city guild and all the officials went over the house and premises, and, being satisfied, a stringent proclamation was issued by the mandarins

warning the people to eep the peace, which quieted matters in Kienyang. That was on June 10th. On Mr. Phillips getting news of what had occurred in Kienning he went at once to the magistrate suggesting that a seal should be put on his house and that the magistrate should give him Mrs. Phillips, and Miss Sears shelter in his yamen, and this he willingly consented to do. The mandarins at both places appear to have done all that lay in their power. What was wrong was that they were not granted military enough to support their authority over a mob rising. One story is, that at Kienning they had two or three hundred soldiers, but that they had been sent away to escort treasure to the tea districts, and that the mob had seized the opportunity presented by their absence to rise, though it was some days before the day fixed for the rising. But to return to the question as to the instigators of the riot, it remains uncertain who they were. The vegetarians or some other secret society may have had something to do with it but it is not improbable that it was the work of the young loafing literati who abound in Kienning and who would find no difficulty in getting together a band of credulous, ignorant, ill-disposed ruffians to carry out their designs. But this does not directly concern us, Nothing can clear the Provincial Government from blame in not having provided against the possibility of such an outrage occurring.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR JULY.

Heavy rain prevented play during the first two days fixed for this competition, but an extra day being granted a better attendance than at one time appeared probable resulted, the links and greens proving in good order.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. C. Palmer	94	11	83*
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	98	11	87*
Mr. W. Taylor ...	100	12	88
Lieut. Tulloch, R.A.	103	15	88
Mr. W. J. Gresson	111	16	95
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins ...	104	9	95
Mr. C. A. Tomes... ...	104	11	95*

18 entries.

* These members also marked their cards for the Pool, for which there were 12 entries.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

Yesterday afternoon an extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, was held at the office of the Company, Queen's Buildings, for the submission of the following resolution:—"That the Memorandum and Articles of Association submitted to this meeting be and the same are hereby approved and that pursuant to the Provisions of the Company (Memorandum of Association) Ordinance 1890 the form of the Company's constitution be altered by substituting such Memorandum of Association with extended objects as therein set forth and such Articles of Association for the Company's Deed of Settlement dated the 29th of August, 1863, and for all Regulations of the Company subsequently made and now in force; and that the Directors be authorized to apply to the Court to confirm this resolution under the said Ordinance." Mr. E. S. Whealer presided, and there were also present the Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. J. H. Lewis, N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, E. Goetz, J. S. Van Buren (directors), D. Gillies (chief manager), H. W. Looker (solicitor), T. I. Rose (secretary), G. Murray Bain, J. F. Reece, J. C. Peter W. Parfitt, G. de Champeaux, F. Henderson, Hart Buck, and G. H. Dann.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said that as long ago as February, 1897, the Chairman informed them at the annual meeting that the existing Articles of Association were somewhat obsolete and that the directors proposed to take up the question of new Articles. They had been advised at each half-yearly meeting since of the progress made with the revision of the Articles, and that meeting had been called for the purpose of passing the revised Articles which had been placed before them. Since the notice was put in the newspapers and the article placed before them, it had been proposed that some few amendments should be made in the Articles as printed. The amendments were in accordance with what had been the practice of of the company. They were principally amendments of words only. The directors had considered these amendments and saw no reasen whatever for not accepting them. In the printing of the Articles a few printer's errors had crept in, and these would of course be rectified.

Mr. LEWIS seconded.

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK proposed a formal amendment incorporating the corrections decided upon by the directors.

Mr. PETER seconded.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—May I ask if these are the amendments referred to in your opening remarks?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. REECE said he was entirely in favour of the amendments proposed by Mr. Keswick. In fact he thought that in the first place they came from himself. There was only one matter he should like to mention, and that was that the name of the Company in one respect seemed to him to be somewhat absurd. The Company had for a long time ceased to carry on business at Whampoa, and he did not think it was intended to carry on business there in the future, and he thought it would be a good thing if steps were taken to change the name of the company—delite the words "And Whampoa" and call it the Hongkong Dock Company; but he understood that it was the idea of the directors to leave this to the Court. The meanorandum and Articles would come before the Court, and the matter might be taken in hand then.

The amendments to the Articles were approved and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that this was all the business and thanked those present for their attendance. Due notice would be given of the confirmatory meeting.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Limited, was held at the offices of the company, 29, Cornhill, on 9th June, the Chairman (Mr. J. MacAndrew) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. A. Cheyne), having read the notice convening meeting, the Chairman said:—

In presenting to them the report and balance sheet, they could not fail to be very satisfactory to the shareholders; 1898, he believed, was the best year they had had; although in making comparison it must be borne in mind that the increase in the gross earnings was in some measure due to additions made to the fleet. It was satisfactory that these additions which had been made were earning profits for the company. The tonnage in Chinese waters was very large, and it might be they would have to encounter fresh competition from German and Japanese lines of steamers which have been organised or projected. The net earning enabled the company to distribute 8 per cent., though it had been decided to declare this as 6 per cent. dividend, and a bonus of 2 per cent. It seemed to the directors that the time had come that they should make an attempt to ensure greater regularity in their dividends. Some surprise had been expressed at the directors carrying forward such a large amount (£19,000). Their reason for doing so was to provide a fund for the equalisation of dividends, so far as that could be attained. Their position later on might not be so good as hitherto, and therefore it was desirable that they should have a fund to provide for these difficulties. In the balance sheet they still retained the exchange reserve account in case of any furtner decline in the sterling value of the dollar. They had also a satisfactory reserve to the credit of underwriting account to enable them to bear any probable losses which might happen. He regretted that all the efforts which they had made to induce the Government to effectually take up the *Kowshing* matter had been unsuccessful. They had done everything they could in this direction, and it was quite clear the Chinese would not re-imburse them until they were absolutely obliged to. However, the Government here still express their intention of assiting the directors as far as they can in the matter, and they hoped that something effectual might be done to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The unsatisfactory treatment of commercial facilities and commercial expansion in China was referred to in the directors' report, and until the Government of that country had been completely reformed and transformed, it was not likely that those concerned in the subject would obtain what the commerce of Great Britain was seeking. There was no doubt that a much larger trade might be done if the facilities were accorded to British commerce which those interested in the matter had a perfect right to expect. If the opening up of the Upper Yangtsze and the West River had not been attended with results which might have been expected, there was no doubt they would do much better later on if the obstructions put in their way by the native authorities were removed. The fleet was in excellent condition, and with the new vessels added to it had been meeting with a considerable amount of employment at good profits. With the depreciation that had been written off from year to year, the steamers now stood in the company's books at about £11 per ton, which was a low average to take the mat. The amount to be collected by sundry debtors in China had since been greatly reduced. The business was going on well and prosperously, and he had still every reason to hope in the future they would yield a better average result to the shareholders He concluded by proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. William Keswick, M. P., seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously, as also was the dividend and bonus.

The retiring directors, Messrs. William Keswick and James MacAndrew, were re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co.) were reappointed.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and staff terminated the proceedings.

BOYD AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the eighth annual general meeting to be held in the Board Room, Pootung, Shanghai, on 7th July.

In submitting their report with statement of account for the year ended 30th April, 1899, the directors congratulate the shareholders on the continued prosperity of the concern.

The net earnings for the year, including the amount brought forward from last account, together with the returns on investments, after allowing for all known liabilities, stand at Tls. 178,718.15. Less directors' and auditor's fees is Tls. 2,300.00, total Tls. 176,418.15.

The reserve fund stands at Tls. 220,000, and the directors propose to add to it the sum of Tls. 30,000, and to make over appropriations as follows:—

	Tls.
1st—Amount to be placed to reserve fund	30,000.00
2nd—Amount to be placed to maintenance and depreciation account	15,000.00
3rd—A dividend of 12 per cent. and 2 per cent.=14 per cent on 7,800 ordinary shares	109,200.00
4th—A dividend of 78 per cent. on 200 founders' shares (=2 per cent. on 7,800 ordinary shares)	15,600.00
5th—Amount to be carried to new account	6,618.15
	Tls. 176,418.15

In accordance with clause 98 of the articles of association one of the directors, Mr. James Johnston, retires, but being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. J. D. Thorburn, who offers himself for re-election.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

28th June, 1898. Dr.	Tls.
To reserve fund, 1898	30,000.00
To maintenance and depreciation account, 1898	15,000.00
To dividends paid on 7,800 ordinary shares, Tls. 15 per share ...	117,000.00

To dividends paid on 200 founders' shares, Tls. 117 per share		23,400.00
To directors' and auditor's fees		2,800.00
31st August.		
To Bennerts estate—Final loss		13.76
To balance carried down		8,571.64
	Tls.	196,285.40

30th April, 1898. Cr.	Tls.
By balance from last report	196,285.40
Tls.	196,285.40

30th April, 1899. Dr.	Tls.
To balance	178,718.15
Tls.	178,718.15

30th April, 1899. Cr.	Tls.
By balance brought down	8,571.64
By net earnings for the year	170,146.51
Tls.	178,718.15

BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.	Tls.	Tls.
Property account—		
Land and buildings in Pootung, New Dock, and pumping gear		442,032.00
Plant account—		
Machinery and gear at engine works, and at New Dock		256,097.57
Stock account—		
Value of materials at engine works, and at New Dock		351,015.08
Furniture account—		
In offices and dwelling houses		6,721.69
Cash account—		
Cash at bankers	20,768.35	
In hand at office	655.29	
		21,423.64
Reserve fund—Investment Account—		
Sundry debtors—		
Accounts in course of collection	197,548.67	
Contracts in hand, value of portion completed	134,848.00	
		332,396.67
Tls.		1,479,288.73

LIABILITIES		Tls.
Capital account—		
7,800 ordinary shares at Tls. 100	780,000.00	
200 founders' shares at Tls. 100	20,000.00	
		800,000.00
Reserve fund—		
Amount at credit of this account		220,000.00
Maintenance and depreciation account—		
Balance from last account	10,496.00	
Appropriation April 30th, 1898	15,000.00	
	25,496.00	
Less expended 1898-1899	19,468.25	
		6,032.75
Sundry creditors		274,357.83
Profit and loss account—		
Balance at credit of this account		178,718.15
Tls.		1,479,288.73

THE CHINA MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

On 23rd June the first general meeting of this Company was held at the offices, Canton Road, Shanghai. Mr Lee Yung presided, and there were present Messrs. Paul Song. Weng Tsu-too, Zia Zee-ding, Lee Tsong-nee, Yue Tsong-nien, and J. R. Wattie, Managing Director. In moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts,

The Chairman said—The Directors have pleasure in submitting the report of the business for the year ending 30th April, 1899, and in doing so they feel that both policyholders and shareholders will find ground for congratulation upon the result of the operations for the first year. There were received during the year applications to the extent of Tls. 671,818,64; and 75 per cent of this business was secured in Shanghai. Of this your Directors accepted Tls 576,319.64, and issued policies for same. Tls. 70,890 was declined as not coming up to the Company's standard, and Tls. 25,000 was postponed for further information. The claims arising from deaths during the year were three calling for Tls, 2,989.64 and your Directors have much pleasure in referring you to the beneficiaries' letters as to the prompt manner in which we settled the claims, not three hours passing after being notified, before claims in Shanghai were paid. The interest received during the year was sufficient to pay all death claims and save a surplus of Tls. 892.10 The surplus in the year's working amounts to Tls. 8,6 8.82, which amount we have placed as follows:—Tls. 7,898.44 to Reserve Fund and 760.38 to Profit and Loss. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Wong Tsu-foo seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem con.*

An extraordinary meeting was then held.

The Chairman moved and Mr. Weng Tsu-foo seconded:—

That the Company be registered under the Companies Ordinances of Hongkong as a Company limited by shares; and the Company's name be changed to The China Mutual Life Insurance Company, Limited.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. Zia Zee-ding—It gives me much pleasure to be able to inform you that the China Mutual Life Insurance Co. has been a success so far. I may tell you that this is the first Chinese life insurance Co. started in the great Empire of China. The pioneers of this Company are Mr. Wattie and some others. It is a great credit to these gentlemen to have started a Company like this, thus bringing in Chinese business in a more foreign way. The first meeting was held in April, 1898, when Dr. Cooper. H.E. Wong, and Messrs. Wong Tsu-kee, Lee Yung-sze, Paul Song, and your humble servant were present. We were rather diffident of success, but our endeavours have been rewarded, the Chinese public having placed their confidence in our Company. We started business on the 17th of May 1898, and we are glad to say that the Company has made a profit of Tls. 8,558.82, after paying all expenses. You know the first year's expenses, of a Company are great, and still we can say that we have made Tls. 7,998.44 profit, which will go to the Reserve Fund. We ask for co-operation of the Chinese public in our undertaking. In concluding I have to thank Mr. Wattie, the manager, for all his work in the matter, for to him is due a great deal of the success of the Company (Applause.)

RAUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifth annual meeting of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co. was held at Brisbane on the 25th May. A fair number of shareholdors were represented, and Mr. De Burgh Persse, chairman of the company, occupied the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, congratulated the shareholders, present and absent, on the magnificent property they possessed, and on the steady increase the mine had made during the year just ended. He pointed out that his recent visit to the concession confirmed the statement previously made that the company owned not a gold mine, but a goldfield The yield of gold had been greater than in any previous year, and there had been 14,259 tons of ore crushed, yielding 13,758oz. of gold, or nearly 1oz. to the ton. The electrical installation (which had been very considerably delayed by non-arrival of iron-piping from England, and by a great deal of sickness amongst the native labour employed in clearing the cable track) would, he hoped, be completed by the end of the year. He had visited all the mines, and was down the grand mine at Bukit Koman, three or four times. In this mine a large amount of work has been done. The new battery was being erected at this site. A dam capable of holding an unlimited amount of water was also being constructed. It was pointed out that there was estimated to be nearly 200,000 tons of ore in sight in this mine. There was no scaresty of labour at the concession, and the system of a regular fortnightly pay-day had done more towards securing good labour for the mines than anything else. Too much praise could not be given to Mr. Bibby, the manager, and Mr. Whyte, who acted as manager during Mr. Bibby's absence in England, for the way in which everything had been generally looked after at the mines. It was pointed out that, but for their indomitable pluck and energy, the shareholders would not now be in possession of this valuable property. In conclusion, the chairman stated that he had to acknowledge the unvarying courtesies extended to him during his visit to the East, and that he returned fully convinced that the management of affairs in Singapore, both with regard to the board and the office, were in most capable hands.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors—the Hon. R. Philp, Messrs. De Burgh Persse, James Forsyth, and G. F. Scott—were re-elected, and Mr. T. A. Bond was reappointed auditor at the same remuneration as before.

A vote of thanks was passed to the officials and staff of the company, and the proceedings terminated with a special vote of thanks to the chairman for the interesting and full information he had placed before the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

FIXED POSTS FOR POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—On Sunday, July 2nd, at 12.30 noon, I saw a half drunken European lying in the gutter outside a public house in the Queen's Road not far from the Fire Brigade Station. I searched everywhere for a European policeman to report the matter. From the Government Civil Hospital to the road up to the Tram station near Victoria Hotel I did not see and could not find any European policeman. I suggest that in this crowded city there should be, as in London, certain *fixed* posts for European policemen in addition to those on patrol duty. The posts in part should be:—

1.—At the corner of Murray Barracks leading up to the Tram station.

2.—Opposite the City Hall and Museum

3.—At the space in front of Thomas's Grill Room and the Victoria Hotel.

4.—At the Clock Tower.

5.—At the Central Market.

6.—At the Fire Brigade Station.

I further suggest that a mounted Indian constable be always on the move from the Fire Brigade station to the Sailors' Home and another from Murray Barracks to the Happy Valley Monument.—Yours,

NO POLICE.

Hongkong, 3rd July, 1899.

THE CUSTOMS AND THE NEW FRONTIER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—About a fortnight ago I wrote pointing out through the columns of your widely read paper that if the territory recently added to the colony was to be administered with as little friction as possible between the British and Chinese authorities it would be necessary to include the whole of the Sunon District and Islands within our boundaries. A reply to that letter was published over the signature of "Open Door," in which two questions are put to me. Indisposition and lack of time prevented me from answering those questions before and I at first was inclined to allow them to remain unanswered, for the answers are so obvious and the letter is so palpably one trying to put a good aspect on a bad case that anyone conversant with the question would see that "Shut the Door" would have been a better nom-de-plume than "Open Door" for the writer to have taken, especially when writing in the interests of a service whose head is continually by his ruling endeavouring to block British trade and take all the substance out of the concessions wrung from the perverse Chinese Government, leaving only a shadow of the concession obtained, as in the case of the opening up of inland waters, and who holds out baits with the intent of establishing his rule within the colony of Hongkong itself. Why on earth the British Government allow their own nominee and one whose position is maintained by British backing to override them on all occasions has always been a puzzle to me.

As some of your readers may not have seen or have forgotten the letter I now reply to, it may be as well to quote that part which I propose to deal with, which runs as follows.—

"I would like to ask 'Old China Hand' in the event of the annexation of the whole of the Sunon District and the Customs stations being

removed from their present or projected positions how much better would it be for the legitimate commerce of Hongkong? It seems to me fairly reasonable to suppose that the stations would be removed to the next advantageous position a few miles further on. If Hongkong held the mountain passes on the one side the probability is that minions of the Customs would be stationed near by to intercept trade and collect dues, as they have a perfect and indubitable right to do. China has, I suppose, still authority to collect revenue, in common with every other nation. How, then, would Hongkong be benefited? To the ordinary man in the street you would be just where you were, only more so. With regard to annexing fresh territory, is it quite established that Hongkong has sufficient resources to properly administer territory already leased? Out of about 200 square miles it is an open question whether more than two thirds of it isn't sterile."

The first point noticeable in the above is the desire on the part of the Customs to cling to their present stations or if that is not possible to remove to projected ones within the Sunon District. As their past record does not go to show that they are desirous of granting privileges to the trade of Hongkong, witness their treatment of the inland waters concession as applied to the West River, one will not easily be persuaded of the advantage of having them located where they are or in their projected stations within the Sunon District.

The next point is that if Hongkong held the mountain passes on the one side the "minions" of the Customs would be stationed near by *to intercept trade*. I am afraid that the "minions" of the Customs would find very little trade to intercept, but the spirit of obstruction in the clause quoted is too palpable to need further remark.

Finally, as to whether Hongkong possesses sufficient resources to administer the territory mentioned, it is perfectly clear to anyone that if half of the shores of Deep Bay and of Mirs Bay remain in Chinese hands it will be much more troublesome and costly to administer than if the bays and their shores are wholely British.

OLD CHINA HAND.

Hongkong, 2nd July, 1899.

LIPTONS AND THE STATEMENTS OF HOPKINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—We shall be much obliged by your inserting this note in your next issue and the telegram as noted below, which we have received from Lipton, Limited, London, in reply to one we sent them.—Yours faithfully,

TURNER & Co.
Agents, Lipton, Limited.

Hongkong, 4th July, 1899.

(Enclosure.)

London, 3rd July, 1899.

"TURNER, Hongkong.

"Very much surprised contents telegram. Our London agents had no authority from us allow Hopkins make such statements.—LIPTONIAN."

THE MENGTZU RIOT.

The *Courrier de Saigon* of the 28th June has the following brief note regarding the recent disturbance at Mengtzu:—

At the time of his visit to Yunnan M. Doumer, the Governor-General, was informed that the gentry (no doubt mandarins displeased with his visit) were trying to stir up a revolt amongst the numerous Chinese workmen employed at the Kotsiou tin mines, near Mengtzu, telling them that the approaching working of the mines by Europeans would take away their living and reduce them to misery. The agitation has unfortunately borne fruit, for immediately after the Governor-General's departure the miners rose and sacked the Mengtzu Custom-house, where the officials were Americans. The French Consulate was also pillaged, and the mandarins were powerless to prevent the disturbance.

The Governor-General immediately insisted that the local Chinese authorities should make known to the population that there was no idea of molesting them or of taking away their living, but that, contrary to the rumours spread abroad, they could not fail to derive advantage from the penetration of European influence and the application of European industrial methods.

We are glad to learn that the Chinese mandarins adopted energetic measures with respect to the rioters and that order has been re-established at Mengtzu.

Such is the tenour of a note stating the general position. There was no bloodshed, which is the principal point. In a few days the Tonkin mail will no doubt bring us full details.

THE TONKIN CUSTOMS AND THE WEST RIVER TRADE.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong*, in an article suggested by the launch at Hongkong of steamer intended for the West River trade, dwells on the importance and the development of this trade and goes on to say that a person well acquainted with Hongkong, Canton, and the possibilities of trade on the West River in discussing the subject expressed himself as follows:—

The Chinese especially ask only one thing and that is to be allowed to trade freely under the protection of a foreign flag. This, in the opinion of every one, must counterbalance the influence of the line of railway penetrating China from Langson, a line which can never serve any good purpose if the Tonkin Customs are maintained in their present rigour. In support of what I say I can assure you that many Chinese merchants have told me that they only send their goods via Tonkin because they cannot do otherwise. The difficulties connected with the Customs examination and the correspondence to which any package in excess leads are too well known. These considerations ought to prove convincing to the Indo-China administration. In particular they demonstrate once more how prejudical to the development of the country is the Customs regime by which it is oppressed. We shall not cease to urge upon the Government a mitigation of the rigour of a regime which deprives the country —as well as the Administration—of an important traffic and compels our Chinese neighbours, natural clients of ours, to throw themselves into the arms of the English, our competitors. Interest and patriotism alike demand that attention should be given to this.

QUIET EXPANSION.

Shanghai, 1st July,

In the accordence with the terms of the Municipal notification published a week ago. the Municipal Council to-day assumed control over the large extension recently added to the area of the General Foreign Settlement. The occasion was not marked by either fuss or ceremony of any kind, and very few of the general public were aware that Shanghai was to-day going through a remarkable stage of its evolution. Unlike the case of our neighbours at Hongkong our extension has been marked by no battles that go to the making of history, and an event, like this, of prime importance in our Municipal development was carried out in such a manner as befitted a purely mercantile and non-political community. All that took place was that the police from the Carter Road and West Hongkew stations were sent out his morning to patrol Pahsionjao, and those portions of Sinza and West Hongkew now included within Municipal limits. The natives took little or no notice of the appearance of the foreign guardians of the peace in regions in which hitherto the only representatives of "the law" were the runners of the various yamens. The Police Authorities had, however, made ample preparations to act if the necessity arose, but no hostility accompanied the introduction of the new regime up to the time of going to press. Our reporter was told by several natives whom he questioned that they were very glad indeed to get rid of the mandarins, and were only too happy to be taken in under the Municipal *aegis*.—*China Gazette*.

News has reached the Japanese Government that the Japanese cruiser *Azuma*, which is now being built at St. Nazaire, in France, was successfully launched on the 24th June.

THE ANTI-RAILWAY RIOT AT KIAOCHAU.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date of 21st June:—The news has just arrived that Mr. Hildebrand, engineer of the new railway and two surveyors have been captured by Chinese near Kiaochau and carried off to some place near by. The first company of the See-battallion is accordingly under orders to leave at once for Kiaochau.

On the 26th June the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* issued the following express:—Our information as to the riots in Kiaochau has been confirmed and completed by a telegram just to hand, dated Tsintaufort, 8.5[illegible] a.m. The preliminary railway works in the district of Kaumi have been impeded by rioters on 18th June. The works had to be abandoned. A detachment of infantry under Captain Manwe, which had been ordered to the place on 23rd instant, met with serious resistance off the village Titung, The populace was armed with rifles and guns. Kaumi was occupied by thousands of armed peasants. Captain Manwe took Titung by storm, the Chinese thereby loosing nine men. Kaumi opened its doors on approach of the German troops. Captain Manwe has received reinforcements of infantry, field and machine guns. It is hoped that order will be restored without any further shedding of blood

MR. FLEMING'S MURDER.

THE DISMISSAL OF THE GOVERNOR OF KWEICHOW DEMANDED.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—

Now that the British Government has formally demanded the dismissal of the Governor of Kueichou, some tell us it is doubtful whether the Chinese Government will accede to it. The English representative first intimated that unless the headman of the village or the gang concerned in the murder of Mr. Fleming was arrested within a month, the dismissal of the Provincial Governor would be insisted on. The plea was set up that the head of the gang had decamped and could not be found. The month passed and still he was not forthcoming. Then the Governor's dismissal was at once demanded. It is hinted by some that, emboldened by Russian assurances of friendship, the Tsungli Yamen may decline to yield to English pressure; but this is extremely doubtful. The probability is that Mr. Wang will have to go in order to avoid further trouble. Wang was considered by some of the Progressives in Peking and elsewhere to be pro-foreign and a friend to Reforms. A Chinese gentleman assured me that Wang was one of the better sort of officals. and not at all likely to raise trouble or to allow the people under his jurisidiction to interfere with missionaries or native Christians. Still, the Chinese proverb says, "the human heart is hard to fathom," and we know that some members of the Reform Party were not only strongly anti-foreign, but, in addition, were bitter foes of the Christian religion! It is safe to say that any mandarin who fails to prevent outrages on foreigners, and then fails to arrest and punish rioters and murderers, should be permanently dismissed from office as an example to others. Any less drastic measure than this is not only useless but dangerous. It is a genuinely good work to give the Chinese a few lessons on the responsibilities of rulers and the sacredness of human life. If the existing officials are either unable or unwilling to restrain their riotous subjects, they should be compelled to give place to better and more efficient men.

A BIG SQUEEZE.

According to a private telegram from Peking received on by one of the Shanghai mandarins, the Manchu Ch'eng Hou, who had been designed by the Empress Dowager for the substantive appointment of the Tientsin Customs' Taotaiship, declined the honour owing to the fact that he was made to understand that, if he did take the appointment up, he was expected to pay to P'i Siao-lien, the Empress Dowager's favourite eunuch, nearly Tls. 200,000 in addition to the Tls. 40,000 which is the usual fee expected by the officials of the Board of Civil

Appointments. It is further reported that Ch'eng Hou bluntly told the Empress Dowager of the extortion made on him, but that the Empress Dowager, instead of taking up the matter and punishing the offenders, simply ignored the accusation, replying that, perhaps, she had better appoint Ch'eng Hou to a Provincial Judgeship when a vacancy occurred.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CHINESE ARMY.

A CONFLICT OF AUTHORITY.

The native correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* at Peking writes under date of 24th June:—

The Empress Dowager's nephew, Jung Lu, Grand Secretary and Generalissimo of the armies North of the Yellow River, has lately evinced considerable dissatisfaction owing to the anomalous position he considers himself to be in, as regards the last title, and claims that unless he has full control over all the forces to dispose of as he considers best, the country will be ruined at the last moment by a conflict of authority. This is owing to the fact that Prince Ching is Commander-in-Chief of the Peking Field Force, numbering some 25,000 men, which naturally looks to him for orders in all things instead of to the Generalissimo. Moreover, Jung Lu, not being a hereditary noble, is powerless against a Prince who would naturally refuse to take orders from a commoner, however high his rank may be. As Jung Lu has a project of bringing all the Northern forces under one single organisation such a division of authority has naturally interfered not a little with his scheme, which has so disgusted him that twice already has he resigned his post as Generalissimo within the last six weeks. This was perhaps, done in order to force the Empress Dowager into public opposition to Prince Ching, who is backed by all the other Princes, Dukes, and nobles of the Imperial Court, who consider Jung Lu an interloper holding a post naturally belonging to a Prince of the Blood. Thus matters appear to stand, while the palace is said to be a very

HOT-BED OF JEALOUS INTRIGUES

of Prince against Minister, eunuch against both, and the Empress Dowager and her favourites against the world. Such a state of affairs will only lead to Palace revolutions and much consequent bloodshed, which no one knows better than the shrewd old Empress Dowager herself, who, while she dare not at present put the Princes and the nobles of her Court down with an iron hand, is determined to keep her nephew in command of the forces surrounding Peking in order to provide against such contingencies rather than against a foreign enemy. From all accounts the old Dowager is also quite willing to to place her nephew in chief command also of the Peking Field Force, but she can see no way to do so, at least without giving offence, and so creating open rebellion among the Princes and nobles against herself and her favourites. Hence the only way feasible appeared to be the usual one of impeachment and charges of misconduct. And Jung Lu does not seem to have lost much time in doing this, for already he has presented three memorals accusing Prince Ching of incapability and mismanagement of the Peking Field. Everybody is now waiting to see whom the Empress Dowager will appoint to make the usual investigations following such charges.

24th June.

NEW WEAPONS FOR THE CHINESE ARMY.

It is reported from Wuchang that the magazine rifle factory built in the city by Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is at present working at its utmost capacity with day and night shifts the daily output now being twenty-five rifles: This is due to the large demands made recently by the various Viceroys and Governors in the Yangtze Valley and along the maritime coast for weapons of precision, causing the factories in Nanking and Tientsin also to work at double time. Viceroy Chang, it is further stated intends to double the facilities of his rifle factory shortly the machinery has already been ordered from abroad.

It is stated in the *Universal Gazette* that the Generalissimo Jung Lu has ordered the Imperial gun foundry at Lukou Bridge, Western suburbs of Peking, to cast eighty quick-firing field pieces for the Husheng Army Corps under his own command, which will raise the number of field guns attached to this Corps alone to nearly 200 pieces. Large consignments of new pattern field and mountain guns have already been contracted for abroad for the other Army Corps now quartered in the vicinity of the capital and at the Southern Hunting Park, and they are expected to arrive at their destination before the closing of the Peiho to navigation.—*N. C. Daily News,*

THE EXPLOSION IN THE HOKOKU COAL MINE.

A TERRIBLE DEATH ROLL.

A report of the terribly fatal explosion of gas in the Hokoku coal mine has been received by the Government, says the *Japan Advertiser*, from the Fukuoka prefectural authorities. The report says:—At a quarter past 12 on the morning of the 15th June a prolonged sound like that of thunder claps at a long distance was heard in the neighbourhood of the mine. The sound lasted for only five minutes. Meanwhile a thick column of smoke began to issue from the mouth of the pit, which, when carefully examined, proved to be clouds of pulverised coal dust. It was evident that the sound must have been produced by an explosion of gas. A number of constables and miners proceeded at once into one of the adits, carrying implements for extinguishing fire and shutting off ventilation, only to emerge a few minutes later, reporting it impossible to make any headway, owing to imperfect ventilation and the presence of noxious gases. There being no signs of combustion, steps were next taken for ventilating the air in the pit, and the work was still in progress when the present report was mailed. At the time of the explosion a large number of miners were at work at the depth of about 100 ft. from the mouth, and none of them have since come out. It is not easy to ascertain their number, for besides those on the list there were many not included in it. However, according to the return up to the present there must have been in the pit 207 men, of whom five were mechanics. All these must have met a terrible death. There are besides nine miners who were working outside at the time, and though they were severely injured, their lives are not in danger.

A vernacular paper states that Mr. Matsumoto, a Secretary in the Home Department, and Mr. Makiyama, an expert in the same Department, who were sent to the Hokoku colliery in Chikuzen to inspect the mine arrangements in connection with the recent explosion of gas there, telegraphed on the 21st inst. to the Home Department, stating that they had paid a visit to the scene of the catastrophe and found that the explosion had been caused by the light of a lantern (*kantera*). The people killed by the explosion numbered 222, one being injured. Only twelve bodies have so far been recoved. The fire was entirely out in the shaft, but it was impossible for a man to enter very far on account poisonous gases. The removal of the bodies was going on, however, mechanical ventilation being used.

CONTROLLING CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, 25th June.

A notification of the Home Department will shortly be issued containing regulations for the control of foreign religions. Hitherto Christianity has been left unmolested, and no notice has been taken when a church or chapel has been erected By the new notification, before a church or chapel is established, the approval of the authorities must be obtained—*Kobe Chronicle.*

Messrs. S. C. Farnham and Co.'s Cosmopolitan Dock at Shanghai, formerly known as Collyer's Dock, and which has lately been considerably lengthened and deepened, was re-opened on the 29th June, the sailing ship *Muskoka* being the first vessel to take the blocks.

THE ELECTRIC TRAMWAY AT PEKING.

The first electric tramway in China was opened on Saturday the 24th June, between the Peking station at Machiapu and the south gate of the metropolis: Yung ting-men. The Director-General of the Imperial Railways of North China, Hsu Ching-ch'eng, the other directors, and six Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen were present, and were deeply interested in inspecting the plant and watching the proceedings. The whole system works excellently and was fully appreciated by the directors. The tramway was projected and constructed by Messrs. Siemens and Halske of Berlin. It is intended to extend the tramway inside the city, a great difficulty being to break a new gate for the the line through the city walls, but after all it will only be a question of time, it being an urgent necessity to have a better communication between the Peking station and the city. The engineer of the line is Mr. Fischer of Messrs. Siemens and Halske.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE FRENCH CLAIMS IN SZECHUEN.

It is currently reported in local mandarin circles that the French Minister at Peking has demanded as an additional indemnity for the Yu Man-tze outrages on R.C. converts in Szechuen, the privilege of working coal mines in the following six districts in that province, namely, Kuanhsien, in the prefecture of Chengtu; Hechou and T'angchiatu in Chungking prefecture; and Chienwei, Weiyuan, and Chiachiang, all in the prefecture of Kiating. In each district a tract of land overing ten square (English) miles is to be given up solely to the use of French subjects working the coal mines situated within these concessions and it may be further interesting to those who have considered Szechuan to be within the Yagtze Valley zone to note that the tracts of land demanded by the French are so placed as to prevent any Power from obtaining control of any stretch of territory running from north to south or east to west. The French demands, though said to be strongly backed by the Russian Minister, are reported to have been made in such a haughty and menacing manner that the Tsungli Yamen have advised the Empress Dowager to refuse her consent to them.—*N. C. Daily News.*

TSINTAO.

21st June.

The rainy season is not far off, and every haste is being made to get all the buildings in hand finished before the rains come. A year ago there was not a foreign building to be seen here, and now more than twenty may be counted. After the rainy season is over work on the railway will begin, and contractors are being invited to tender for the earthworks and buildings from here to Koumi, a distance of nearly 75 kilometres. Within a year the railway will be running to Weihien, to bring coal thence to this place.

The weather is now favourable and many people are enjoying the bathing in Clara Bay. Regulations as to bathing will be in vogue as a first-class bathing-place. As soon as the Shanghai-Soochow-Chinkiang railway, and the Chinkiang-Peking line, connecting at Chinanfu with the line to Tsintao, are open. Tsintao will be within fourteen hours of Shanghai. Next year those who come to Tsintao for sea-bathing will find accommodation in the new comfortable Strand Hotel, and some private houses will be built near the beach to accommodate guests.

Diederichsen, Jebsen & Co., who have a contract for five years to provide the Government with bricks, are building a big brick factory for an annual out-turn of nearly 20,000,000 bricks. The machinery is to arrrive from Germany in November.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

An important seizure of contraband arms from Hongkong took place at Bangkok on the 9th June, on board the German steamer *Else*. The seizure comprised twenty-five cases of rifles, valued at between $9,000 and $12,000.—*Straits Times.*

WEIHAIWEI.

29th June.

The warmer weather brought with it the fleet, which with the exception of the *Rattler* and the *Powerful* left to-day for a cruise in Northern and Japanese waters. The aggregate of the ships' companies for several weeks past cannot have fallen below three thousand men, latterly the total has been much higher; even now with but two ships—since one of them is the *Powerful*, there are over a thousand men afloat in the harbour. Besides these, there is the marine garrison of about one hundred men, and very soon it is stated, these are to be reinforced by seven hundred and fifty artillerymen. The men are not permitted to cross the harbour to the mainland, say two to three miles from the anchorage, but are confined to the Island, whence leave is given for a few hours daily. The Island itself does not present many attractions, to walk round it takes but three hours; nor are there any places of interest to visit. In short Jack finds it a dull enough spot. There is the United Services Recreation Club ground, of course, but needless to say, he is not much in evidence there, nor does there seem to be any similar place at the disposal of the men, though it may be assumed that cricket and football have their devotees in the forecastle as well as on the quarter deck. Small as the Island is, sufficient room could probably be found for such a purpose nor could a piece of land be better employed. The sale of intoxicating drinks other than at the naval canteen, where lighter liquor only is to be had, is strictly prohibited, though the number of cases of spirit intoxication probably suggests to the authorities that the prohibition is none too effective. The Chinese will risk much for money, and the man seized with spirit craving will risk much to appease it. A counter attraction to the canteen and the shebeen in the shape of a recreation ground would mitigate the evil and save at least some of the younger men from falling into evil ways.

On the extreme East end of the Bund a thirty-foot board bears the legend "Sailors' and Soldiers' Institute," and judging from the number of visitors, the efforts of those who opened and carry on the place do not go unappreciated. It is purely a private venture, Mr. and Mrs. Mudditt bearing the whole responsibility, financial and otherwise, no light burden one would judge. The institute buildings were rented on a nine year's lease from Messrs. L. W. Sing Tai & Co. just twelve months ago, by the local missionaries, but without any clear idea of how the place could be carried on. Well they took time by the forelock for so much accommodation and so conveniently situated would now be unobtainable. Mr. and Mrs. Mudditt who have, for the previous three years or so been engaged in work among the Chinese in the neighbourhood, stepped into the breach and for nine months past have devoted themselves to the service of the sailors. The house is small enough for its purpose, particularly when the bulk of the fleet in here. The accommodation at the disposal of the sailors consists of a large airy room, the tables on one side of which are covered with newspapers and magazines,—more old than new it is to be feared, though Mr. Mudditt acknowledges the kindness of the proprietors of the *North-China Herald*, the *Celestial Empire* and the *Times* in supplying the Institute with copies of their valuable papers free of all cost. At the tables on the other side substantial refreshments are to be obtained at prices all too moderate as some judge, but the rates are fixed at a minimum lest higher figures should suggest a business speculation, no great risk to run.

Another and smaller room is set apart for meetings, and here night after night, there is the sound of hearty hymn singing to the accompaniment of a tiny organ. Later on these singing parties give place to more regular services, prayer meetings, Bible readings, and so forth. As there is no missionary, or other society, behind Mr. Mudditt, the expenses involved are met by friends interested in the welfare of sailors abroad. The advantages of the Institute to the men are so evident, that it is not suprising some should have assumed for it the support of the Admiralty or of the local government. The facts are, however, as above stated.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Rain having continued to fall in torrents lately, some parts of the North and the West River have again overflown their banks and some places have been inundated to the depth of five or six feet.

The farmer of the salt revenue has presented an application to the Salt Commissioner asking for a reduction of the amount paid to the Government annually for the said farm on the ground that some places have been leased to foreign Powers, where no revenue can now be obtained. The request has been granted and a Weiyuen has been appointed to ascertain what amount of revenue was usually obtained from the leased property in former times.

There is a notorious robber named Tin Chai-shing in Samshui district who is said to be more fierce even than the famous robber Cheung Wan, who formerly so severely oppressed the district in question and was arrested and decapitated last year. Tin has in all about two thousand bad characters under his sway. They do not commit robbery during the night time, but issue forth during the day in large bands to demand money from the shop people or the villages under threats that on failure to comply with the bands they willdem be surely beaten or plundered. The case has been reported to the Canton authorities, who have sent a military officer with two hundred soldiers to the scene.

Plague has made its appearance in Fatshan. Taikun street and Kunlan street are seriously infected and a large number of victims have been claimed by the pest.

H.E. Luk Chuen-lam, Governor of Canton, has applied for a month's leave on account of illness.

The robbers on the West River are as bold as ever, in spite of some steam-launches having been detailed for service as cruisers. On the 25th June a steam-launch cruising about met two large junks behaving in a suspicious manner. The launch at once steamed up to them, wishing to make enquiries, but when she came near to them, they fired at her. The launch returned the compliment. There were over fifty robbers on board the two junks and a large quantity of ammunition. The encounter lasted about two hours and the steam-launch having only a few men on board was obliged at last to desist and let the junks go. The coxswain, the pilot, and two others were fatally shot and the steam-launch was badly damaged.

HONGKONG.

There were 1,681 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 203 were Europeans.

The confirmation of Mr. C. W. Duggan's appointment as Secretary to the Sanitary Board is gazetted.

The appointment of Mr. H. A. J. Gompertz, barrister-at-law, to be Acting Police Magistrate and Coroner during the absence from the Colony of Mr T. Sercombe Smith is gazetted.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Queen's exequatur has been issued empowering Don Alexander Spagnolo to act as Consul for Spain at Hongkong.

The return of cases of communicable diseases reported last week shows, in addition to the plague cases, one case of enteric fever, the patient being an Indian police constable, and one fatal case of smallpox.

On Tuesday afternoon two Chinese engaged in the erection of a building in Praya Central, opposite the end of Li Yuen street, East, were seriously injured and had to be taken to the hospital, in consequence of an archway on which they were standing giving way.

At the Magistracy on Thursday a Portuguese was fined $5 for assaulting a ricksha coolie. He said that when walking along Queen's Road East complainant came along and called out to him to get out of the way. He did so, but as complainant thought he was not quick enough he called him a foul name as he passed him and in consequence he struck him with his stick. His Worship said a constable had spoken to defendant's being under the influence of drink, and he saw no reason why a ricksha coolie who had got a fare should go out of his way to insult an European.

On Tuesday afternoon the Land Investment Company bought Kowloon Inland Lot No. 898 for $35,600, the upset price being $18,900. The lot comprises 31,500 square feet and the annual rent is $368. The land is situated at Tsimshatsui, at the back of the Wharf and Godown Company's premises.

Tuesday being "The Glorious Fourth" Consul-General Wildman was "at home" from two to six, and between those hours there were numerous callers at the Consulate to offer their congratulations on the great anniversary. The American vessels and vessels trading to American ports were decorated in honour of the occasion and the American residents ashore also made a display of the Stars and Stripes at their offices and residences.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, General Managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received the following information by telegram:—"The battery using 10 stamps ran for 26 days in June, crushing 393 tons of stone for 323 ozs. retorted gold. In the last fortnight 211 tons of stone were crushed realizing 218 ozs. of gold, this including 36 tons from the new South level, which gave 41 ozs. of gold.

On Wednesday afternoon an inquest was held in Victoria Gaol on the body of a Chinese woman who had died in the hospital. Dr. Thomson certified that death was due to heart failure, due to fatty heart, with pneumonia. Deceased was undergoing a term of imprisonment for returning from banishment. A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned. The enquiry was held before Mr. Gompertz, Acting Police Magistrate, and the jurors were Messrs. Hans Kock, H. Hydnman, and W. T. Mitchell.

On Wednesday afternoon two lots of Crown land at Aberdeen were disposed of, the owners of the Paper Mills being the purchasers in each case, one lot was Inland Lot No. 74, which contains 600 square feet and which is liable to an annual rent of $2. The upset price was $60 and $80 was realised. The other lot was Inland Lot 75, which contains 5,000 square feet and is subject to an annual rent of $12. The upset price was $500 and the sum realised was $520.

On the 16th of April a petty officer of H.M.S. *Undaunted* named A.E. Atkins reported to the Hongkong police that an English lever watch and a nine-carat gold chain had been stolen from his cabin between the 13th and 15th April and that he suspected some workmen who had been engaged in doing something on board. He supplied the police with a description of the watch, on which were engraved his initials, and enquiries were at once set on foot, but up to the time the *Undaunted* left for the north no trace could be found of the missing articles. Subsequently a Chinaman tried to pawn the watch. The pawnbroker knew it at once and gave the man in charge. Defendant said he was a carpenter living in Praya East, Wanchai; and in all probability he is the man who stole the watch. In the absence of the owner, however, a charge of being in unlawful possession only could be preferred, and the man was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment, the watch being returned to the owner.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday Man Pin Iu, *alias* Man Ping, was charged with unlawfully obtaining $34 by false pretences. Mr. Gedge appeared for the prosecution.—Yan Kwai, a cattle dealer, said a firm called the Hing Kee firm owed him $190.05 for cattle sold and delivered, and the firm was still indebted to him. On the afternoon of the 22nd June he found that the Hing Kee people had left the colony. He went into the Central Market to see a man, and they spoke about this matter. While they were talking defendant came up, and it was agreed that witness should accompany him to the office of Mr. Holmes, solicitor, with the view to instructing him to take action against the Hing Kee firm. Witness had previously paid defendant $5. When they arrived at Mr. Holmes's, defendant, who speaks English, went inside and on coming out said that it had all been arranged, and that the Hing Kee firm would be brought before the Supreme Court on a certain date. The next morning witness paid defendant $29 for Mr. Holmes's costs. It subsequently transpired, however, that Mr. Holmes had never undertaken to take the case up.—Defendant was sentenced to four months hard labour.

The Acting Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he received on 5th July the following telegram from the mines giving the result of the June clean-up:—The mill ran 28 days, crushing 2,900 tons, yielding 110 ounces of smelted gold. Concentrates produced, 15 tons. Cyanide plant yielding £76 sterling.

At the Magistracy on Saturday the occupier of house No. 30, Lascor road, was fined $5 for having his verandah obstructed with a bed, a round table, some boxes and firewood. The defendant said the floor of the room was being washed, and the furniture was placed temporarily in the verandah. Inspector Fisher said he had previously warned the defendant not to put things into his verandah.

A special session of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held in the Justices' Room at the Magistracy on Tuesday morning, the business being to consider an application from one Catherine Alice Bremner for an adjunct licence for the retail sale of intoxicating liquors as an adjunct to her business as hotel-keeper on the premises situate at house No. 8, Ice House Street under the sign of "The Waverley Hotel." Mr. H. Gompertz (Acting Police Magistrate) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Messrs. E. W. Mitchell, W. Danby, W. M. B. Arthur, C. W. Duggan, and Deputy Superintendent Baddeley. The Chairman said an adjunct licence did not include permission to keep a public bar. The hotel, he understood, would be a middle-class hotel charging moderate prices. The applicant was very respectable, and there was no police objection. The householders who recommended the granting of the application included Major Long. The applicant was a married woman, and her husband was bookkeeper in the Commissariat Department.—Mr. Hastings, who appeared for the applicant, said the premises appeared very suitable for the purpose for which they were required. There was no objection.—The Applicant was called into the room and the Chairman informed her that the Justices had much pleasure in unanimously granting her application.—Mr. Mitchell said they wanted more hotels of that class in the colony.

At the Magistracy on 30th June a woman was charged with stealing a young China boy and two other women were charged with receiving him knowing him to have been stolen. It appears that on Saturday the police received information that first defendant was taking the boy to Aberdeen to sell him. She was accordingly stopped on the way by a lukong and brought to No. 7 Police Station. In consequence of what she said Inspector McLennan took the boy to where second and third defendants (who are mother and daughter) lived, where the boy had been staying. Third defendant said the boy was her husband's younger brother. The boy, however, appeared not to know her at all, but was too young to give any intelligible account of himself. On the case being brought before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith at the beginning of the week he adjourned it. He questioned whether, seeing that the boy had been brought from China, he had any jurisdiction, but recommended the police to make further enquiries and to endeavour to find out the parents and bring them down. Yesterday Mr Reece appeared for second and third defendantr. The parents were not forthcoming, and he contended that His Worship had no jurisdiction. An Ordinance had been specially framed to make it an offence to bring a girl into the colony from China for the purposes of prostitution, but this case was under another Ordinance altogether—Mr. Gompertz: I presume your clients don't lay any claim to the custody of the child?—Mr. Reece: No, they don't, your Worship; they leave that matter entirely in your Worship's hands.—Under the circumstances His Worship discharged defendants and ordered the boy to be handed over to the custody of the Registrar-General.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 3rd July.—(From Messrs. Wieler, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.)—Our last "printed" tea market advices were under date 16th instant. From Hankow we hear of an active demand from Russian houses for second crop Black Teas from the Liang Hu districts at prices which make early purchases of first crop Teas look cheap. Quotations were Shuntaam Tls. 13.80 to 14.40, other districts Tls. 14.40 to 16½. Ningchows Tls. 17 to 21 a picul. Black Tea.—Buyers appear to think that any Tea is worth Tls. 18, but comparatively fine Tea is not worth more than Tls. 22 to Tls. 24 a picul. The offerings on this market are small, and the quantity of business done is trifling.

Settlements reported are:—

Wenchow	...401	½-chests, to Tls.	18 to 18.60 a pcl.
Oonam	132	„ to „	19 „

Nominal stock, 2,083 half-chests mostly represented by chest muster only.

Green Tea.—It is perhaps a matter for congratulation to find that the fear of rejection by the United States Customs Inspectors is no longer oppressing the dealings in good sound common Teas, and it is hardly to be wondered at that the craving for common Teas in most of the consuming centres should cause inflated prices here. Fine Teas are comparatively neglected, but lines which were going a begging last year at Tls. 12/14 are now eagerly taken at Tls. 20/21, and the lowest quotation for "skin" is Taels 14 a picul. We must not forget to say that there is no suspicion of adulteration about these Teas, and they are all sweet drawing. At the same time if these prices continue the supply of common Tea will be largely increased. Pingsuey.—The market has been one of slow bargaining with the Teamen in which the seller has generally been able to maintain the price at near to opening prices. The usual irregularities in value have been apparent, but no one could come into the market to buy a quantity under opening rates. Local packs have met with some attention, fine lines have been obtainable at Tls. 4 at 5 under last year's prices for similar Teas, whilst chops containing common lines are fully up to last season's quotations. Fychows are beginning to arrive and promise no improvement on the Teas we have become accustomed to receive from this district. Two chops have been settled at Tls. 19½ 20½ a picul. Hysons.—Purchases have been made almost entirely by one firm. Local packed Tls. 22/24½, Fychows and Socyoons Tls. 27½ at Tls. 36½ a picul. Settlements reported to date 2,085 half-chests. The first shipment to Batoum went forward per rel.

Settlements reported from 16th instant are:—

	½-chests.		lines.	Tls.
Pingsuey.....	13,316	at Tls. 22½ a 27½	14 to	50
Local packed	3,436	„ 18½ a 22½	24 „	26½

16,752 ½ chests.

Total Settlements from opening of the season to date are:—

1899.

	Settlements. ½-chests.	Stock. ½-chests.
Pingsuey	14,914	15,211
Local packed.....	3,436	3,137
Total	18,350	18,348

1898.

	Settlements. ½-chests.	Stock. ½-chests.
Pingsuey	7,169	11,846
Local packed.....	8,235	3,933
Total	15,404	15,779

SILK.

CANTON, 23rd June.—Silk.—Tsatlees.—No settlements have been reported. Re-reels—Have been in good enquiry at hardening prices, but dealers are not disposed to sell. Filatures—Have been in good demand and prices advanced rapidly. Stocks being very poor and most of the filatures being engaged for the next six weeks, buyers had to pay the prices asked by the reelers. From prices paid we quote: $820 for Best 2me. 9/11, $890 for Miu King Lun 11/13, $880 for Kai Sun Cheong 13/15, $865 for Sam Kee 11/13, $840 for 50 bales No. 2 11/13, $830, for Best No 3 10/12, $780/750 for Best No. 3 11/13, No. 3 and 13/15, $775 for Yee Wo Cheong and Wai King Wo 18/22. Shortreels:—New York did not follow the movement of the last fortnight and most of the settlements of Short-reels were made for Europe. III 14/16 have been in good demand but none are obtainable. Waste.—Quiet; prices weak.

SHANGHAI, 1st July.—(From Messrs A. R. Burkill & Son's Circular)—Home advices report a dull market with Blue Elephants at 13/0 and Gold Kiling at Fcs. 73; these quotations are presumably for "spot" cargo. Raw Silk.—Settlements aggregate about 500 bales, principally Coarse Silks. Business is reported to have been done amongst Chinese at Tls. 530 for Gold Kiling. Yellow Silk.—A fair business has been doing in Yellow Silk at quotations below. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 24th to 30th June are: 6,325 bales White, 361 bales Yellow and 155 bales Wild Silk. Re-Reels and Hand Filatures.—A transaction is reported in Gold Pheasant chop at quotation below. In Steam Filatures the demand has kept up and higher prices have been paid all round. About 700 bales have been settled this week; we estimate total contracts at 4,500 bales. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 2 bales to England, 141 to the Continent, and 112 bales to America. Wild Silk.—1,000 bales have changed hands at quotations given. Waste Silk.—Nothing doing. Pongees.—17,000 pieces have been contracted for as follows:—21/22 in. by 70 yds. by 56/7 oz. 5 per cent. congee to Tls. 16.20/16.30, 21/22 in. by 70 yds. by 45 oz. 5 per cent. congee to Tls. 13.60, 3/22 in. by 70 yds. by 52 oz. no congee to Tls. 15.20.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/9⅛ Freight Tls. 7.25 per bale.

	Tls. per pcl.	Stlg. per lb.
Tsatlees.—Blue Phœnix	515	12/3½
„ Yacohlay Seeling	512½	12/3
Hangchow Tsatlees.—Pagoda Tingfoong	515	12/3½
Taysaam.—		
Green Kahing M	505	12/0½
9 by 12 Moss, Single Butterfly	450	11/1
„ Double „ 1	430	10/7½
„ „ „ 2	408½	10/1½
„ Green Horse 2	462½	1/4½
„ „ 3	442½	10/11
Skeins.—		
Lie Skeins	380/385	8/0 a 8/1
Steam Filatures.—		
First Choice, 9/11 deniers	905	21/3½
„ „ 10/12 „	890	20/10½
Steam Filatures.—		
First Choice, 11/13 deniers	880	20/7½
„ „ 13/15 „	865	19/11½
Second Choice 11/13 deniers	865	20/3½
Hand Filature.—		
Gold Pheasant, 1, 2 and 3..... aver	650	15/2½
Yellow Silk.—Mienchow No. 1	382½	9/2½
„ Meeyang No. 1	342½	8/3½
„ Kopun Extra	360	8/8½
„ Wongchow No. 1	245	6/0½
„ Szechong	230	5/8½
„ Tungloh .....372½ a 387½	6/7½ a	7/0
Wild Silk.—		
Tussah Filature, 8 Cocoons ....252½ a 260	6/2 a	6/4½
„ Raw Market 1	32½	3/5

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900. bales.	1898-9 bales.
Shanghai	192	197
Canton	11,782	11,893
Yokohama.....	30,254	35,937
	42,228	48,027

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900 bales.	1898-9 bales.
Shanghai	10,244	3902
Canton	33,880	24,874
Yokohama	19,531	19,268
	63,655	48,044

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Fresh supplies having come forward the market is easier. Quotations for Formosa are $63.00 to $63.50. Sales 250 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—A large demand has been experienced and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1,	White	8.00 to	$8.05	cl.
do „	White	7.45 to	7.50	„
Shekloong, No. 1,	Brown	5.40 to	5.45	„
do. „ 2,	Brown	5.30 to	5.35	„
Swatow, No. 1,	White	7.90 to	7.95	„
do. „ 1,	White	7.35 to	7.40	„
Swatow, No. 2,	Brown	5.25 to	5.30	„
do. „ 2,	Brown	5.15 to	5.20	„
Formosa Sugar (duty)		11.18 to	11.20	„
S[illegible]		10.35 to	10.40	„

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Tonkin*, sailed on the 1st July,—For Milan:—19 bales raw silk. For Zurich:—5 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—500 bales raw silk. For London:—10 bales raw silk and 1 case silks. For Marseilles:—271 bales raw silk, 10 casks silks, 7 casks curios, 9 casks furniture, 50 cases staraniseed, 401 packages tea, 51 packages matting.

Per British bark, *Queen Margaret*, sailed on the 17th June. For San Francisco:—19,903 merchandise. 100 packages tea, 360 boxes cassia, 200 packages firecrackers, 68 boxes fans, 4 packages rattan chairs, 2,000 rolls matting, and 249 bags pepper.

Per steamer *Macduff*, sailed on the 27th June, For New York:—200 packages cassia, 23 cases Chinaware, 40 packages tea, 30 boxes bristles, 499 packages merchandise.

Per steamer *Ixion*, sailed on the 2nd July. For London:—2,762 boxes tea (56,002 lbs. Sc. Caper,) 893 boxes and 734½-chests tea from Amoy, 800 boxes particulars unknown. 352 bales waste silk, 130 bales canes, 48 cases cigars, 2 cases blackwoodware 22 cases curios, 25 cases essential oil, 40 cases cassia, 360 cases pearl shell, 24 boxes Chinaware, 131 rolls matting, 2 301 packages firecrackers, 97 packages feathers, and 31 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—402 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—1 box silk piece goods, 40 bales rope, and 4 cases copper. For Glasgow:—1 case cigars and 10 cases curios. For Monte Video:—6 cases fans. For Hamburg:—500 boxes tea (6,560 lbs. Congou).

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Bengal.—Rates have declined during the interval, but there is a good demand at the close. Latest quotations are:—New Patna $815. Old Patna $870; New Benares $820.

Malwa.—There has been a fair amount of business done and the market closes firm at the following figures:—

Old (2 yrs.)	$740	with allowance	0	to 1¼	catties.
„ (3/4 „)	$760	„ „	0	to 1½	„
„ (5/6 „)	$780	„ „	0	to 2	„
„ (7/8 „)	$800	„ „	—	to —	„
„ (9/10 „)	$830	„ „	0	to 1¼	„

Persian.—The market continues dull. Latest rates are:—Oily $650 and Paper-tied $650 to $765. To-day's stocks are estimated as under.—

New Patna	1084	chests
Old Patna	348	„
New Benares	259	„
Old Benares	7	„
Malwa	570	„
Persian	821	„

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA. New.	PATNA. Old.	BENARES. New.	BENARES. Old.	MALWA. New.	MALWA. Old.
1899.	$	$	$	$	$	$
July 1	795	845	800	—	—	740/760/780/800/830
July 2	795	815	800	—	—	
July 3	795	845	800	—	—	
July 4	800	855	811½	—	—	
July 5	815	860	817½	—	—	
July 6	820	870	825	—	—	
July 7	815	870	820	—	—	

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Steady demand exists for superior qualities; others very moderately enquired for. Stocks about 5,500 bales

Bombay	15.00 to 16.00	picul.
Kurrachee	— to —	„
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	15.50 to 17.00	picul.
Shanghai and Japanese	20.00 to 21.00	„
Tungchow and Ningpo	20.00 to 21.00	„
Madras (Best)	— to —	„

Sales: 800 bales Bengal (Rangoon, new), and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Large shipments have been sent to Swatow, where the crops have failed, and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	$2.40	to 2.45
„ Round, good quality	$2.80	to 2.85
„ Long	$3.10	to 3.15
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	3.05	to 3.10
„ Garden, „ No. 1	3.30	to 3.35
„ White	3.85	to 3.90
„ Fine Cargo	4.00	to 4.10

COALS.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Market continues very quiet. No sales. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	$18.00	to —	ex ship, nominal
Australian	11.00	to —	ex ship, steady
Miiki Lump and Small	9.00	to 10.00	nominal,
Moji Lump	6.75	to 9.00	ex ship, quiet
Hongay double screened	12.00	to —	ex godown
Hongay Lump	8.00	to 8.50	ex ship
Hongay Dust	5.50	to —	„
Briquettes	10.50	to —	ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—50 bales No. 8 at $68.50, 1,000 bales No. 10 at $65.50 to $79, 750 bales No. 12 at $68 to $76, 300 bales No. 16 at $78 to $80, 650 bales No. 20 at $79 to $86. *Grey Shirtings*:—500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at $4, 1,500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 men at $3.92½, 1,500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Ticket at $3.92½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. C. W. W. Sycee at $4, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at $3.92½, 5,400 pieces 8¼ lbs. Red 7 Boys at $2.57½, 600 pieces 8¼ lbs. Red Seal at $2.62½, 1,200 pieces 8¼ lbs. Blue Seal at $2,92½, 600 pieces 8¼ lbs. Blue Seal at $2.92½. *White Shirtings*.—400 pieces Blue Lion at $5.05, 500 pieces and 70 at $3.65. 250 pieces Blue Dragon at $5.10, 500 pieces 6 Chop at $4.25, 250 pieces Blue Dragon at $5.10, 500 pieces S S at $4.60, 250 pieces No. 600 at $4.42½, 500 pieces Elephant and Tree at $5.35, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at $5.10 *T. Cloths*.—1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at $2.35, 600 pieces 8lb. X X at $3, 750 pieces 7lbs. Mex. No. 2 S Lion at $1 82½, 600. *Bengal Cotton*:—70 bales at $17.10.

METALS.—*Quicksilver*:—100 flasks at $151, 200 flasks at $151.

	per bale		
COTTON YARN—			
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	58.00	to	90.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	101.00	to	108.00
„ 22 to 24	106.00	to	110.00
„ 28 to 32	114.00	to	120.00
„ 38 to 42	125.00	to	131.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece		
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.70	to	1.80
7lbs.	1.90	to	2.00
8.4 lbs.	2.35	to	3.10
9 to 10 lbs	3.25	to	4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30	to	2.50
58 to 60 „	2.70	to	3.35
64 to 66 „	3.50	to	4.35
Fine	4.30	to	7.05
Book-folds.	3.75	to	5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.66	to	1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.52	to	1.72
7lbs. (32 „), „	1.85	to	2.10
6lbs. (32 „), Mexs.	1.62	to	1.82
7lbs. (32 „), „	2.10	to	2.75
8 to 8.4 oz, (36 in.)	2.35	to	3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs	3.65	to	6.35
FANCY COTTONS—			
Turkey Red Shirtings—1¼ to 8lbs.	1.60	to	4.75
Brocades—Dyed	3.00	—	—
	per yard		
Damasks	0.12	to	0.14
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08	—	—
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20	to	0.40
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18	to	0.19
	per dozen		
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25	to	1.25
WOOLLENS—	per yard		
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.62½	to	1.52½
German	—	to	—
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.20	to	2.25
	per piece		
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.10	to	9.50
Assorted	6.20	to	9.60
Camlets—Assorted	11.50	to	31.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	8.00	to	20.00
Orleans—Plain	7.50	to	8.50
	per pair		
Blankets—3 to 12lbs. (pair)	4.50	to	14.00
METALS—	per picul		
Iron—Nail Rod	4.75	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar	5.00	to	—
Swedish Bar	6.50	to	—
Small Round Rod	5.25	to	—
Hoop ⅜ to 11/2 in.	6.00	to	—
Wire 15/25	9.50	to	—
Old Wire Rope	2.50	to	—
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	9.00	to	—
Australian	8.95	to	—
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	42.00	to	—
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	41.50	to	—
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	41.50	to	—
Composition Nails	65.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	43.00	to	—
Tiles	—	to	—
Tin	60.00	to	—
	per box.		
Tin-Plates	7.50	to	—
	per cwt. case.		
Steel ¼ to ⅜	6.00	to	—
SUNDRIES—	per picul		
Quicksilver	149.00	to	—
	per box		
Window Glass	5.75	to	—
	per 10-gal. case		
Kerosene Oil	2 21		—

SHANGHAI, 1st July.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.—Business continues on much the same lines as described last week, a fair number of transactions being reported at gradually hardening prices, but a large proportion is kept private, importers not caring to particularize their sales when the results are favourable for fear of home prices being affected thereby. However there should be little necessity for such precaution now, for it is impossible to replace them in most cases. Tientsin and Ningpo are the chief operators, but at the same time there is a good deal of speculative buying, as it is expected that there will be an extensive enquiry from the North in the near future, in fact remittances have already been received for that purpose and the markets are said to be very bare of stock. American goods are sure to be prominent in the demand and the present position of the leading staples in our market is worthy of attention.

METALS, 3rd July.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report).—We are again unable to report any business, on account of another advance in home prices, and things are more or less at a standstill. No doubt, however, the Chinese will gradually come round to the home demands, as stocks diminish and need replenishing, and the Chinese see they cannot buy for less. The following, business has been put through:—20 tons Black sheet Iron £10.12.6 c.i. f. and c.; 200 tons London Horse Shoes at Tls. 2.10 spot.; 10 cases Corrugated Sheet Iron, 26 and 28 gauge a £6. 6s. c.i.f. and c.; 1000 Wire Nails at 9s./8d c.i.f. and c.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Rates continue to rule strong and a fair business has been transacted during the week under review.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais were enquired for in the early part of the week at 300 to 302 per cent. prem. and a few small lots changed hands at those rates. Later, the demand continuing, and the London rate having advanced to £61, shares changed hands at 305½, 306, and 308 per cent prem. and at time of closing could be placed at the last mentioned rate. On time an unsatisfied demand exists at better than equivalent rates. Nationals are in demand at $21, but shares do no seem to be procurable and there is no business to report.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at $61½ and $62, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Unions continue neglected with no business, also the Northern Insurances. Straits have found buyers at $6¼, and Cantons at $140.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue on offer at $312½ without inducing business. Chinas have changed hands at $89 and $88½. Both stocks close quiet at quotations.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have improved to $30½, after sales in the early part of the week at $30, market closing firm at the former rate. Indos have ruled steady with small sales at $69½ cum div. Douglases have changed hands at $58, and China Manilas at $91. China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have found cash buyers at $174, $173½, and $174, whilst on time shares have changed hands at $179 and $180 for September, and sales are reported at $178 for August and September.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled steady to quiet and have been negotiated at $15, $15.10, and later at $14.75. market closing quiet at $14.75. Charbonnages have found further buyers at $255, but close with sellers at that rate. Queens continue quiet and out of the market at 47½ cents. Olivers on receipt of news of a good crushing (323 oz. from 393 tons) in June and of 218 oz. from 211 tons in last fortnight rapidly jumped to $4½ and later to $5 after

sales at $3.25 and $3.50. Jelebus have been in request and changed hands at $11½, $12, $12½, $13, and $14, closing firm at last rate. Raubs have been placed in small lots at $58½, $59, and $59½, closing firm at $59¾.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled quiet with small sales at 400 and 401 per cent. prem. for cash and at 409 per cent. for August delivery. Kowloon Wharves have found buyers at $94, $95, and $96, closing steady at the last rate. Wanchais have changed hands at $42.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue firm with sales at $93 and close with buyers at $94. Hotels have changed hands at $103 and $104, closing with a few shares on offer at the latter rate. Kowloon Lands have found buyers at $30¼, West Points at $30, and Humphreys at from $10.35 to $10.75 for cash and at $10.70 for August.

COTTONS.—Unchanged and without business except a small sale of Hongkongs at $[illegible].

MISCELLANEOUS.—Star Ferries have been done at $16½, Watsons at $14½, $14¾, and $15½. Fenwicks at $43, Ices at $114, $115, and $116.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[$510 buyers
Hongkong & Shai...	$125	308 p. ct. prem.,=
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£[illegible].
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	$21, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£8	$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$10.
China Prov. L. & M....	$10	$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	$100	$174, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls 100	Tls. 70
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 65
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychee	Tls 500	Tls. 3[illegible]0
Yahloong.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 50, buyers
Hongkong	$100	$80, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm.....	$6	$5, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	$25	$43, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement...	$ 0	$28¾
H. & [illegible]. Bkery	$50	$25
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	$127, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	$10	$12¼, sellers.
H. H L Tramways	$100	$145, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	$50	$103 buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	$25	$116, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	$50	$96
Hongkong Rope.....	$50	$175 buyers
H. & W. Dock	$125	402, p. ct. p em.= [627½ buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	$50	$140, sales
China Fire	$20	$88½, buyer
China Traders'	$25	$62, sellers
Hongkong Fire	$50	$312½, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 195
Straits	$20	$6¼, buyers
Union	$50	$235
Yangtsze	$60	$105, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	$50	$94, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	$10	$10.75
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$30, buyers
West Point Building	$50	$30, buyers
Luzon Sugar	$100	$57, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs 250	$225, sellers
Gt Estn. & C'donian	$ [illegible]	$2.70, sellers
Do. Preference...	$1	95 cts., sellers
Jelebu	$[illegible]	$14, buyers
Queen's Mines Ld....	25c	47¼, buyers.
Oliver's Mines, A....	$5	$6
Do. B....	$3½	$5, cum call, b'yers
Punjom	$6	$14.75, buyers
Do. Perference...	$1	$2½.
Raubs	15s 10d	$[illegible]9¾, buyers
New Amoy Dock	$6¾	$15½, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	$50	$91, buyers
China Mutual Pref	£10	£9, 15s, buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£6, 0s, buyers
Do.	£5	£3, 0s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	$50	$[illegible]7½, sellers
H., Canton and M...	$15	$30¼, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	$62, ex div., s'lers
Star Ferry	$7½	$16, buyers
Tobrau Planting Co. ...	$5	$5, sellers
Do.	$3	$3, sellers
United Asbestos	$2	$2
Do.	$10	$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse...	$37½	$42, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	$10	$15½, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 3rd July.—(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been dull this week, but prices have been well maintained, save in Langkat Tobacco shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Local business has been confined to a sale for 30th September at 308 per cent. premium. Douglas Steamship shares are offering at $58. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are obtainable at Tls. 53¼. Mining.—Punjoms are offering at $15¾. Jelebus were sold at $11. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 195. Shanghai Dock shares were placed, Founders' at Tls. 240, Preference at Tls. 110, and Ordinary at Tls. 100. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls 185 cash. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are wanted at $01. Industrial.—International Cotton Mill shares were sold at Tls. 65. Shanghai Ice shares changed hands at Tls. 35, and New American Cigarette shares at Tls. 55. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 170 and Tls. 175. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares were forced off at Tls. 30. In July, 1897, they were selling at Tls. 580, and in July, 1898, at Tls. 210. Central Stores changed hands at $11. Loans.—Shanghai Land 5 per cent. Debentures changed hands at Tls. 90, and Shanghai Gas 6 per cent. Debentures at par.

Quotations are :—

BANKS,
- Hongkong and Shanghai.—$500.00.
- Bank of China and Japan, Ld.—£1.0.0.
- Do. ordinary.—£5.5.0.
- National Bank of China, Ld.—$21.00.

COTTON MILLS,
- Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 70.00.
- Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.— 80.00.
- International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 65.00.
- Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ld.—Tls. 75.00.
- Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 350.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, &C.,
- Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.
- Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200.00.
- Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—$90.
- Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ld.—$625.00.
- S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 195 00.
- Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 1 0.00.
- Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 185.00.

INSURANCES,
- Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—$140.00.
- China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$89.00.
- China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—$62 00.
- Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$312.50.
- North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 195 00.
- Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—$6.00.
- Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—$232½.
- Yangtsze Insurance Assocn., Ld.—$110.00.

LANDS,
- Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—$89.75.
- Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ld.—$10.20.
- Shanghai Land Invest Co., (fully pd.)—Tls. 83.00.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 7th July.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11⅛
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11⅛
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11¾
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 15/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.48½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.01¾
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48⅛
Credits, 60 days' sight	49⅛
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147¼
Bank, on demand	147¾
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147¼
Bank, on demand	147¾
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72¼
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4¼ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE :—	
On demand	1¼ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate	10.06
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 7th July.—Since last report, a large number of settlements has been offered at fairly good rates. From Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul is offered for small carriers. Five steamers have been chartered to load at Saigon for the Philippines, and further tonnage is still wanted at 32½ cents per picul: to Java (one port) 25 cents per picul is offered. Newchwang to Canton, 21 cents per picul can be obtained. Java/Hongkong, 33 cents per picul. Japan coal freights.—From Moji to this, $2.10 per ton; to Singapore, $2.50. Sailing tonnage. —Vessels are wanted to load at Singapore and Rajang for Hongkong. The British bark *Sofala* proceeds to Port Angeles under orders from owners. There is still a demand for ships to load for Hongkong, and 17s. per ton of 40 cubic feet, offered for prompt loading.

The following are the settlements:—

Dunav—Austrian steamer, [illegible], 1,[illegible]4 tons, hence to London, private terms.

Produce—Norwegian steamer, 1,0[illegible]2 tons, Singapore to Hongkong, $[illegible]1,00 option Shanghai $14, [illegible]0 in full.

Independent—German steamer, 1,[illegible]4 tons, Newchwang to three ports Java and thence to Hongkong, 7 cents per picul.

Tamsui—British steamer, 919 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 29 cents per picul.

Kong Nam Newchwang to Canton, 27 cents per picul.

Nestor—British steamer, 2,417 tons, Moji to Hongkong, $2.[illegible] per ton.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Moji to Hongkong, $2.10 per ton.

Cassins—German steamer, 1,469 tons, Moji to Singapore, $2.62½ per ton.

Kutsang—British steamer, 1,481 tons, Saigon to Manila (25, 00 piculs), 36 cents per picul.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 32½ cents per picul.

Kalgan—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Saigon to Cebu (3[illegible]10 piculs), 32½ cents per picul; Cebu to Yokohama, 3 cents per picul.

Kansu—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 32½ cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port Philippine, 32½ cents per picul.

Lady Mitchell—British steamer, 754 tons, Saigon to Iloilo or Manila, 38 cents per picul.

Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Iloilo 35 cents per picul.

Taiwan—British steamer, 1,[illegible]09 tons, Saigon to Manila, 30 cents per picul.

Unity—Norwegian steamer, 1,0[illegible]3 tons, Saigon to one por N.C. Java, 25 cents per picul.

Pakshan—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to Hongkong 18 cents per picul.

Kongbeng—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,116 tons, Saigon to Hongkong. 18 cents per picul.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul.

Olso—Norwegian steamer, 777 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18½ cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18½ cents per picul

Holstein—German steamer, [illegible]13 tons, monthly, 3 months, $5,25 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Japan* (str.), *Bengal* (str.) *Patroclus* (str.), *Tantalus* (str.), *Glenlochy* (str.) *Inaba Maru* (str.), *Sydney* (str.), *Kanakura Maru* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Bayern* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.), *Inaba Maru* (str.), *Kanakura Maru* (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Silesia* (str.), *E Rickmers* (str.), *Sarma* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*China* (str.), *Hongkong Maru* (str.), *Belgian King* (str.), *Doric* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—*Tacoma* (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—*Columbia* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Indrapura* (str.), *Yangtze* (str.), *Afridi* (str.), *Governor Robie*; *Josephus*; *St. James*.

For AUSTRALIA.—*Tsinan* (str.).

For GENOA VIA STRAITS, BOMBAY, &c.—*Rafaele Rubattino* (str.).

For TRIESTE VIA STRAITS, &c.—*Silesia* (str.).

For BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Hiroshima Maru* (str.).

For SINGAPORE PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—*Suisang* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

June— ARRIVALS.
30, Phra C. C. Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
30, Haiching, British str., from Tamsui.

July—
1, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
1, Taicheong, German str., from Deli.
1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
1, Hanoi, British str., from Haiphong.
1, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
2, Belgian King, Brit. str., from San Diego.
2, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
2, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
2, Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.
2, Propontis, British str., from Saigon.
2, Feiching, Chinese str., from Canton.
2, Loyal, German str., from Canton.
2, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
2, Stanfield, British bark, from Rajang.
3, Ambria, German str., from Shanghai.
3, Jason, British str., from Penang.
3, Tientsin, British str., from Bombay.
3, Deike Rickmers, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
3, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
3, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
3, Kiukiang, British str., from Saigon.
3, Commonwealth, British str., from N. York.
3, Eastern, British str., from Foochow.
3, R. Rubattino, Italian str., from Singapore.
3, Silesia, German str., from Hamburg.
3, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
3, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
4, Quarta, German str., from Saigon.
4, Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
4, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
4, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Foochow.
4, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
4, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
4, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
4, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.
4, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
4, Shini Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
4, St. Helens, British str., from Singapore.
4, Tailee, German str., from Mauritius.
4, Hitachi Maru, Japanese str., from London.
5, Hoihao, French str., from Hoihow.
5, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
5, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
5, Aztec, Hawaiian str., from San Francisco.
5, Fusan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
5, Taksang, British str., from Tientsin.
5, Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
5, Agnes, French str., from Kwangchow-wan.
6, Glenturret, British str., from London.
6, Hainan, German str., from Chefoo.
6, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
6, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
6, Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
6, Foochow, British str., from Hongay.
6, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
6, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
6, China, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
6, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
6, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
6, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
7, Bucephalus, British str., from Samarang.
7, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
7, Cheang H. Kian, British str., from S'pore.
7, Glenlochy, British str., from Foochow.
7, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
7, Charterhouse, British str., from Penang.
7, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
7, Chwnshan, British str., from Swatow.
7, Kiangpak, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
7, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
7, Telena, British str., from Batoum.
7, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.

July— DEPARTURES.
1, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
1, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
1, Clio, British str., for Singapore.
1, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
1, Merionethshire, British str., for Nagasaki.
1, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
2, Kalgan, British str., for Saigon.
2, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
2, Natuna, Danish str., for Yokohama.
2, Ixion, British str., for London.
2, San Gottardo, Italian str., for Saigon.
2, Shansi, British str., for Amoy.
2, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
3, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
3, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow
3, Tsinan, British str., for Amoy.
3, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
3, Daphne, German str., for Vladivostock.
3, Hupeh, British str., for Sourabaya.
3, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
3, Socotra, British str., for Nagasaki.
4, Siam, Danish str., for St. Petersburg.
4, Zafiro, U.S. des.-ves., for Manila.
4, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton,
4, Taiwan, British str., for Bangkok.
4, Victoria, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
4, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
4, Kiukiang, British str., for Port Arthur.
4, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta
4, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
4, Yarra, French str., for Shanghai.
4, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
5, Else, German str., for Hoihow.
5, Wongkoi, British str., for Hoihow.
5, Jason, British str., for Amoy.
5, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
5, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
5, Commonwealth, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Onsang, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Progress, German str., for Touron.
5, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
5, Kansu, British str., for Saigon.
5, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
5, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
5, Feiching, British str., for Swatow.
5, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
5, Dagmar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
6, St. Helens, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Nanchang, British str., for Swatow.
6, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
6, Hakuai Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
6, Haiching, British str., for Amoy.
6, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
6, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Kooti.
6, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
6, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
6, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
7, P. C C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
7, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
7, Ambria, German str., for Hamburg.
7, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
7, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
7, Tailee, German str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Manila*, for Hongkong, from London, Miss C. Donaldson; for Manila, Mr. E. W. Duck; for Shanghai, Mr. W. Baddeley; for Nagasaki, Mr. Suival: from Singapore, for Hongkong, Mr. F. R. Smith and 116 Chinese.

Per *Tsinan*, from Australia, &c., Messrs. A. Robertson, A. C. Cooper, R. B. Beattie, P. Savio, W. C. Clark, Geo. Massey, Harding, A. E. Ellis, U. S. Brea, F. Astadi, A. Alizalde, F. Aycaretta, E. Oreachea, M. Payez, Ed. Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Harly and daughter, and Mr. Vert.

Per *Suisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. W. G. Hooke.

Per *Chowtai*, from Bangkok, Messrs. McCullach and James.

Per *Nanyang*, from Taiwanfoo, &c., Messrs, Dinshaw and D. Ollia.

Per *Eastern*, from Foochow, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Sir John Lester Kayd, Mrs. Vesolson, Messrs. A. Tofft and Müller.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Singapore, Messrs. George Iuksetter, S. C. Serger, E. A. Pau, E. R. Plower, T. Bormet and Rev. H. Miller; from Saigon, Messrs. Nichel, G. Leighton and 161 Chinese.

Per *Hailoong*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. H. Ikeda, Mr. and Mrs. A. M dos Santos and child.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Messrs. T. Guerra, Castaneda, J. Ewing, Tripp, A. St. Maney, R. Bliss, H. Mann, and Butterworth.

Per *Rohilla*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Messrs. M. L. Wilkinson, Ahmstedt, and Taatze; for Singapore, Messrs. G. Iwase and K. Katayama: from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mr. Griffiths; from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. F. Elloriaga, and Mr. Martins.

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Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Sutton.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. E. K. Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Johns, Mr. and Mrs. F. Haskins and child, Mrs. Layton, Master Layton, Major Watson, Mr. A. Seabury, Mrs. S. Bailey, Mrs. G. Razzo. Messrs. C. K. Magnirs, G. H. Hayes, J. Welki, J. Stevenson, N. Fikans, J. C. Munchen, R. Thompson, B. A. Holcomb, R. T. Rolph, E. Brenan, and Ling Yen Hing.

DEPARTED.

Per *Merionethshire*, for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Tobbin and Mr. A. Grapper.

Per *Gaelic*, for Amoy, Mr. S. Kuhnota; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. James Lee, Mrs. L. Naptha.i, and Mr. G. Waghorn; for Honolulu, Mr. Yim Chun She; for San Francisco. Messrs. Wong Quai Moon, Lee Iun and servant Mrs. Yong Shee, Mrs. Lee Shee, Mrs. Chan Chu Wan, Miss Chan Chu Sing, and Messrs. Tam Hon Chong, W. G. Zoller and J. S. Huntley.

Per *Tonkin*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mr. James Johnstone, Miss Lorig, Messrs. Darou and J. Brandani Jeson; for Singapore, Messrs. T. Jackson, R. B. Beattie, Konish, F. X d'Attaides, R. Lipus, Kurumoto, R. Pear, Mrs. F. Jacob, Mrs. S. Karitee, Misses S. Joseph and E. Sherim, and Mr. C. F. McGuire; for Colombo, Bro. Gabriel; for Port Said, Mr. Louise Gatt; for Marseilles, Mrs. H. Donald de Senna Fernandez, Messrs. H. Letourneau, W. A. Keay, and Bro. Jean: for Saigon, from Nagasaki, Mr. F. Nishida; from Shanghai Messrs. Pfleuger and Duc: for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. Konesi; from Kobe, Mr. Y. Shibuya; from Nagasaki, Mr. N. Furumoto, Mrs. C. Oshimoto, Mrs. R. Oshimoto, Mrs O. Yokoo, Mrs. O. Hayashida, and Mrs. O. Hattori; from Shanghai, Messrs. Hong and A. Meller: for Suez, from Kobe, Messrs. A. Ben Setrit and A. Kauf: for Port Said, Messrs. F A. Yennakoff and Podgoursky: for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. S. Takano and T. Yoshiye, Dr. Ludwig Riess, and Mr. S. H. James; from Shanghai, Messrs. Bouffard and C. Abakumoff, Father Pannentier, Messrs. L. Geslin, L. Hugnes, Emery, Gally, C. A. Stewart, Gerry Krüger, Heinrich Siebert, H. F. Kruse, and G. Schaar.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Fitton and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. F. Montero de Espinosa, Mrs. Formoso, Mrs. Manining, Mrs. Concha, Mrs. Alberto and 3 children, Mrs. Rebecca Pois, Mrs. Bertha Fishman, Messrs. Hernandez, Manuel Moles, C. A. Martinho Marquez, and Duck, Mrs. B. Rosenfeld, Mr. S. Kous, Mrs. Moldauer, Mrs. P. Rodrigues, Mrs. M. Rodrigues, Mrs. Canta, Mr. and Mrs. Jacinto C. Ventura, Messrs. J. Kolonorich and Chun Man Kut.

Per *Yarra*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. Geo. F. Page, C. Simpson, Mrs. Lucia V. Musso, and Mr. Paul Privat; for Kobe, Messrs. Andrew Robertson, W. G. Clark, and H. T. Jorge; for Yokohama, Dr. Gibson, Mrs. Gibson, Messrs. J. Ping, P. Revenga, Harden, J. F. Noble, Silva, and Gutierrez.

Per *Eastern*, for Port Darwin, Mr. and Mrs. Spark and 2 children, Miss Spark, and Mr. P. Greet; for Thursday Island, Mr. Geo. Massey; for Sydney, Messrs. W. Davies and W. E. Gumbach, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. W. Harris, Misses Harris (3); for Melbourne, Capt. Ramsay, Misses Warner and Croucher.

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